

LAST MONTH'S
AVERAGE DAILY SALE
424,000
No 63,606

Homosexual inquiry into Scots judges

Lord Dervaird quits after ultimatum

By Kerry Gill

Five of Scotland's 24 High Court judges have been under investigation after allegations of homosexuality, a senior legal source confirmed last night.

The revelation comes after one of them, Lord Dervaird, aged 55, resigned from the bench after allegations of homosexual behaviour were put to him shortly before Christmas by Lord Hope, the Lord President of the Court of Session, equivalent to the Lord Chief Justice in England.

The senior legal source said that Lord Dervaird, formerly Mr John Murray, QC, was advised to resign or face an inquiry, but no details of allegations against him were revealed. He declined to comment when he resigned after less than two years on the bench, but rumours soon became rife.

Various allegations that have been investigated con-

cerned four other judges, whom the source called simply judges A, B, C, and D.

There have been allegations that judges had taken part in homosexual activities with young men in a country cottage in south-west Scotland and had frequented public houses and clubs in Glasgow known to be haunts of the homosexual community.

No further resignations are expected and none will be sought. The legal source said: "If there was a judge who had a homosexual relationship of a steady nature which did not expose him to the risk of blackmail and public ridicule or give rise to the risk that his judgement would be compromised, that would not preclude him from serving on the bench."

"The Lord President is not in a position of possible moral judgement. Where a judge was in a position of possible exposure and blackmail, or a breach of confidence in relation to his performance as a judge, then this would not be acceptable. Each relationship would be judged according to the facts."

Lord Dervaird had warned him about this.

Judge B was said to have visited a disco frequented by the gay community, but had left in disgust and was not alleged to have engaged in any homosexual activity. The source said: "His reaction was such that the Lord President was satisfied that the rumours were without foundation."

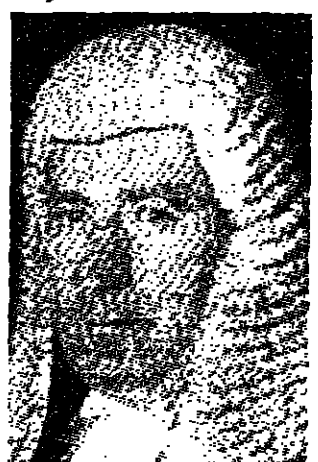
No specific allegations were made against Judges C and D, but they were named to the Lord President. Judge D had shared a flat with one of the other judges concerned.

The Scottish Office declined to comment last night, and the Speaker, Mr Bernard Weatherill, rejected a request from Mr Jim Sillars, Scottish National Party MP for Glasgow Govan, for a statement in the Commons. Mr Sillars, who did not name Lord Dervaird, said he understood Scottish national newspapers had been briefed, and Scotland was being "swept with rumours" on the issue.

Lord Dervaird was appointed a judge on January 29, 1988 to replace Lord Jauncey who was made a Lord of Appeal in Ordinary.

As Mr Murray, he was admitted to the Faculty of Advocates in 1962 and took silk in 1974. Lord Dervaird, a married man, was chairman of the Scottish Lawyers' European Group from 1975 to 1978 and from 1978 was chairman of the Scottish Council of Law Reporting.

He has also been a member of the Scottish Law Commission and vice-president of the Agricultural Law Association of the UK. From 1979 to 1985, he was chairman of that body.



Lord Dervaird: Challenged by Lord President.

Rumours were also circulating concerning Judge B, but there were no specific allegations other than that his name was being mentioned in a homosexual context. The

Marsh questioned on Warren shooting

Boxer is held at airport

By Michael Horsnell

Terry Marsh, the former world boxing champion, was being questioned last night in connection with the attempted murder of Frank Warren, his former manager, who survived a point-blank shooting in London seven weeks ago.

Mr Marsh, aged 31, was held at Hackney police station in east London all day after being arrested at Gatwick airport in an operation involving men from the Metropolitan and Sussex forces.

He was questioned by Det Supt Jeff Rees, senior officer of a special squad whose inquiries have included investigations within the boxing fraternity.

Mr Nigel Benn, the leading British middleweight boxer and a close friend of the arrested man, also went to Hackney police station but police said that only Mr Marsh was being questioned about the attempted murder.

Police stopped Mr Marsh as he stepped from a Continental Airlines flight from Newark, New Jersey. The former fireman from Basildon, Essex, was returning from Atlantic City where he had watched Mr Benn box on Monday.

Mr Warren, aged 37, a millionaire promoter, who was Mr Marsh's manager when he became world light welterweight champion until he was forced to quit boxing with epilepsy in 1987, was shot when he arrived in his chauffeur-driven Bentley at a boxing promotion in Barking.

Although hit in the chest and wounded, he has made a remarkable recovery.

Mr Marsh, a boxing promoter and manager in his own right now, denies involvement in the shooting.



Frank Warren (top, right) aiming the camera at Terry Marsh and (above left) showing his brother where the bullet struck his chest; and the moment when Marsh won the world light welterweight championship in 1987.

Soviet troops told they can fire on militants

From Michael Binyon, Moscow

The Soviet military authorities yesterday gave permission to their forces to fire on warring Azerbaijanis and Armenians after troops came under threat and military depots were raided.

The announcement on the nightly news bulletin said that Soviet army, interior ministry and KGB troops had shown "maximum restraint" in attempting to restore order.

"But as these situations have become unbearable, the leadership of the defence ministry, interior ministry and KGB have given instructions to their personnel to use their weapons in strict accordance with military rules and applicable laws," it said.

The announcement came as

the death toll rose to 60, with four more badly-burnt bodies of Armenians being discovered in Baku. The Soviet Ministry of the Interior said 169 Armenian and Azerbaijani homes had been raided or set on fire since the clashes started, and police and troops had arrested 75 people.

Soviet correspondents painted a gruesome picture of Armenians being stabbed, clubbed, beaten to death with iron rods and thrown from windows in Baku.

In Armenia, gangs raided 13 military guard posts for arms. There were also raids on Interior Ministry district offices, a police post and on the Ministry of Communication.

In Azerbaijan, the Popular

Front nationalist group blocked a military airfield in Kirovabad. There was also an exchange of fire with Soviet troops in Taziken, a village of the Shamkhor district, when a group tried to seize five tanks from an army unit.

In Nagorno-Karabakh, the Armenian populated enclave inside Azerbaijan, roads were still blocked and trains halted, so troops were being flown into the area.

Rallies were held in Baku in defiance of the curfew and ban on public meetings, with demonstrators chanting slogans against the state of emergency. People have turned their anger against Moscow, and a Lenin monument in the village of Ehnagadzor was smashed.

Continued on page 22, col 7

Ford talks break down

By Kevin Eason

Ford, Britain's biggest car company, faced a crippling national strike after the company refused last night to increase substantially its 10.2 per cent pay offer to 32,000 manual workers.

Talks broke down after five hours with union negotiators recommending that the entire assembly line workforce took all-out strike action over the two-year pay deal.

Despite the pressure of huge

disruption caused by unofficial walkouts timed to coincide with the talks yesterday, Ford managers refused

to offer large increases over the 10.2% tabled last week which drew widespread criticism from government ministers.

Continued on page 22, col 3

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INSIDE

THE TIMES GUIDE

TO HEALTHY LIVING

At the mercy of the elements

Some water supplies do not come up to EC regulations, and some of the substances involved have a known health risk. But how big that risk is, no one knows. The Times Guide to Healthy Living continues with an examination of the threats posed by the environment modern man has created for himself. See page 11

From today, The Times is expanding its coverage of science and technology. Our four-page report begins on page 31

There was only one winner of yesterday's £4,000 Portfolio Platinum prize (see page 3). Today's chance to win £2,000 is on page 29

New-look Cook

Thomas Cook, the travel agency owned by Midland Bank, is to spend £18 million on revamping 250 of its high street outlets to encourage higher-spending travellers to book with them. Page 23

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MPs question Rover sale

Not EC concern, Young says

By Sheila Gann, Political Reporter

Lord Young of Grafton said yesterday that he withheld from the European Commission full details of the final terms on the £150 million Rover sale to British Aerospace because he did not consider it their concern.

The former Trade and Industry Secretary's statement came as he faced MPs for the first time to answer allegations that he deliberately deceived Parliament and the EC over £38 million in hidden sub-

sidies to BAE to close the sale. He also insisted that he still believed the EC would not order the repayment of the £22 million in interest which BAE admitted it had gained from

Photograph 2

Parliament 10

delaying the £150 million purchase price for more than 20 months. He said the deferred payment agreement was not "a state aid".

In his first full explanation in Parliament, Lord Young said he strongly objected to attempts to "run down" the sale and insisted there were no improprieties involved.

As he answered allegations that he deliberately deceived Parliament and the European Commission over the final terms, he retorted that the deal "was a great triumph" and accused critics of seeking to make short-term political advantage out of the affair.

Britain's way of life 'under threat'

By Robin Oakley, Political Editor

With the social security Bill for single-parent families now topping £3 billion a year Mrs Margaret Thatcher yesterday warned that Britain was reaping the harvest of the permissive 1960s with a breakdown in the family unit which represented "a new kind of threat to our whole way of life".

She linked the breakdown with the increase in child cruelty and teenage homelessness, expressed outrage at the

increase in child sexual abuse and signalled a new drive to restore moral values, insisting the permissive pendulum was beginning to swing back. The

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Prime Minister said in her inaugural George Thomas Lecture under the auspices of the National Children's Home that one in five children now

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Thatcher 'fizzing with fury' over student loans

By Sam Kiley

Higher Education Reporter

The Prime Minister threatened "retribution" against the leading commercial banks after they pulled out of the Government's student loans scheme, according to a confidential memorandum leaked to the Labour Party. She was "fizzing with fury".

She ordered Mr John MacGregor, Secretary of State for Education and Science, to deliver a threat of revenge to the representative of the chairmen of the finance houses, Sir John Quinton, chairman of Barclays Bank.

In his minute of the "bruising meeting", he said Mr MacGregor delivered "on instruction from the Prime Minister, a severe reprimand to the banks for their last-minute withdrawal

from what the Government regarded as a commitment to take a shareholding in the Student Loans Company Limited and participate in the scheme".

Sir John said in his memo that Mr MacGregor warned that the Prime Minister was "absolutely fizzing with fury" and was promising retribution (as yet unspecified) against the banks.

Last month the Government's plans to introduce loans partly to replace grants for student maintenance suffered a severe setback when the banks pulled out, although Mr MacGregor repeatedly stated that the withdrawal of the banks did not affect his proposals.

Some backbench Conservative MPs said yesterday that they believed that Mrs Thatcher saw the "top-up" loans, which are intended to be a supplement

of about £400 a year to the grant, as "phase one" of a plan to abolish grants and introduce loans for the cost of living at college.

That explains why she is so angry. Without the banks all you have is a socialist-style bureaucracy. It would be very difficult to go to phase two and abolish grants unless top-up loans were already being administered by the commercial banks," one Tory MP said.

In Sir John's memo, which was circulated to all the other chairmen of clearing banks and records his meeting with the Secretary of State on December 19 last year, he said Mr MacGregor had accused the banks of collapsing at the "first whiff of grapes" after student unions threatened to boycott branches administering student loans.

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NEWS ROUNDUP

Officers to take Dear to tribunal

Several former members of the West Midlands serious crime squad, which was disbanded last year, have started legal moves to take Mr Geoffrey Dear, the Chief Constable, before an industrial tribunal (Craig Seton writes).

The officers were among 53 detectives who were moved from operational duties to administrative jobs by Mr Dear last August when he ordered an unprecedented inquiry into the activities of the serious crime squad after allegations that some of its members had fabricated evidence.

Up to seven officers, including a chief inspector, an inspector, a sergeant and a constable, are involved in the plan to go to an industrial tribunal where they are expected to claim that their Chief Constable's action changed the nature of their jobs to such an extent that they consider they have been constructively dismissed.

The Police Federation, which represents officers up to chief inspector, is supporting them. West Midlands police said: "There is no precedent for this sort of action."

Ivory trade reprieve

Ivory traders in Hong Kong have been given the right to continue trading legally despite an international treaty banning the sale of ivory (Ruth Gledhill writes). Britain yesterday entered a six-month reservation to the prohibition on ivory trade on behalf of Hong Kong. Wildlife and conservation bodies condemned the reservation, disclosed by Mr Douglas Hurd, the Foreign Secretary, so that traders can dispose of the legally acquired ivory.

Spitting Image sale

Spitting Image, the Central Television satirical puppet show, has a new chairman (Martin Waller writes). Mr William Sargent, who runs a graphics company providing special effects for television, would not disclose yesterday how much he paid for his estimated 60 per cent share in the company. He is buying out three sleeping shareholders. Some of their shares will also go to Mr Peter Fluck and Mr Roger Law, who helped to form the company behind the latex puppets. Mr Sargent will take over the daily running of the organization.

Rival route dropped

Proposals to build the second Channel tunnel terminal at Stratford, east London, rather than at King's Cross, were formally repudiated yesterday by Ove Arup, the firm of consulting engineers that has been promoting the £2.15 billion scheme (Michael Dwyer writes). Abandonment of the project came after a series of public meetings attended by Mr Timothy Janman, Conservative MP for Thurrock, and Mr Colin Stannard, an Ove Arup consultant.

Wind gust of 161mph

A wind gust of 161mph, the strongest registered at low level in Britain, was recorded at the Butt of Lewis, western Scotland, on Tuesday night (Kerry Gill writes). The hurricane-force gust was recorded at a lighthouse on the most northerly point of the Western Isles. Mr John Knight, the keeper, said: "We hardly felt a thing." The wind was measured at Force 17 on the Beaufort Scale, beating the record of 141mph set at Fraserburgh, north-east Scotland, last February.

Air hooligan billed

A passenger who forced a flight to be diverted has received a £1,400 bill from the airline. He threatened other travellers on the Britannia Airways charter flight from Tenerife to East Midlands Airport last November and hit out at two women, the airline said yesterday. When the crew failed to calm the man, the pilot diverted the plane to Lisbon, where police removed him. Britannia has billed the man for handling charges at Lisbon and the extra fuel needed.

Liverpool appointments

Two Militants land Euro jobs

By Nigel Williamson, Political Staff

Two leading Militant supporters, expelled from the Labour Party in 1986 and barred by the House of Lords from holding civic office for five years, have landed top jobs paid for by the Labour-controlled Liverpool council.

Mr Tony Mulhearn, a former councillor, who was seen constantly at the side of Mr Derek Hutton during Liverpool council's budget confrontation with the Government in the mid 1980s, has been appointed together with Mr Frank Mills, another debarred councillor, as the city's liaison officers with the European Parliament.

The jobs carry salaries of £15,000 a year each but the total cost of the new unit was estimated by one Labour source last night at £150,000.

The move has already been condemned by some Labour councillors as a "jobs for the boys" scheme. One said that it had been "sprung" upon them at a meeting of the council's Labour Group on Monday.

The appointments were carried by 21 votes to 17 with 18 councillors absent and moves are already afoot to attempt to overturn the appointments at a specially convened meeting of the group, not least because the jobs were never advertised.

Although the two will be

formally employed by Mr Kenneth Stewart, one of Liverpool's two Labour MEPs, the salaries and running costs of the new unit will be met out of council funds.

Mr Stewart defended the appointments saying: "They are quite capable of doing the job. I know they will do their best for the city - they would not last five minutes if they didn't. We need people in the city to follow up our applications for European grant cash and lobby in Liverpool and Brussels when necessary."

The reappearance in Liverpool politics of two prominent supporters of Militant will add support to the claims of Mr Frank Field, the deselected MP for Birkenhead, who yesterday submitted a dossier of complaints about continued Militant activity in the region to the Labour Party's National Executive.

Labour's opponents in the city were also quick to attack the appointments. Mr David Alton, the Liberal Democrat MP for Liverpool Mossley Hill, said: "It is quite unacceptable for people to be taken on at ratepayer's expense who have not been through the normal career structure of local government." The Militant connection only added to the scandal, he added.

Crime prevention the key to reducing prison population, says Hattersley

Labour reforms would lead to fewer jails

By Philip Webster
Chief Political Correspondent

A sentencing council designed to bring greater consistency from the courts was proposed by the Labour Party yesterday in a package of reforms aimed at substantially reducing the prison population.

Prisons would close as the reforms, which see jail as a punishment of last resort, and new crime prevention measures began to bite, according to proposals published by Mr Roy Hattersley, the shadow Home Secretary.

Restrictions introduced in 1982 to reduce prison sentences for young offenders would be extended to cover adults; while no offender under 17 could be remanded or sentenced to prison.

The proposals are outlined in *A Safer Britain*, which also commits

the party to setting up an independent review body of lay people and judges to investigate suspected miscarriages of justice, such as the Guildford four case.

The body could either advise the Home Secretary to order a retrial or conduct an investigation of the whole case itself. There would be a "trigger mechanism" for sending cases to the review body to avoid it being "swamped" with unjustified applications.

The Labour document comes shortly before the government White Paper on criminal justice and there are considerable similarities between Labour proposals and those expected in the White Paper.

Mr Hattersley rejected suggestions that Labour was "soft on crime", saying: "The posture over crime is one of the reasons the crime rate has gone up. There is a feeling

on the Tory benches that the tougher you are in terms of sentencing the more the crime rate will fall. The evidence shows that that is wrong." All the talk about toughness had increased crime by diverting the Government from crime prevention, Mr Hattersley said.

The document commits Labour to introducing a crime prevention Bill imposing a statutory duty on local authorities to introduce such crime prevention measures as better street lighting, better design and layout of estates and improved management of town centres, housing estates and public facilities.

Local authorities would spearhead the crime prevention initiative in partnership with the police, local communities, private enterprise and voluntary organizations.

Turning to the prison population,

the document says Britain imprisons more people than any other country in Western Europe, at a cost of £288 a prisoner a week, compared with £18 a week to supervise them in the community.

The document says: "The Labour Party believes that prison should be used as a last resort for those convicted of serious offences and that there is a need to reduce both the number and length of prison sentences for most categories of offence."

Labour says custody should be imposed only to protect the public; when the offender is unwilling to respond to non-custodial penalties, and for offences so serious that a non-custodial penalty cannot be justified.

The new sentencing council would provide guidelines for a range of cases designed to ensure that the

courts hand out consistent penalties. At present the Court of Appeal produces guideline judgments in only a limited number of cases. Other proposed reforms include:

- A review of maximum penalties.
- A system of means-related fines.
- Ensuring that community service is used as an alternative to custody.
- Expanding the probation service.
- Reforming the bail process to reduce the number of people remanded in custody.
- Reviewing the system to see whether the court is the best setting for dealing with young offenders.
- Raising the maximum age of the juvenile court to 18.
- The document sets out a package of proposals to ensure that victims of crime are compensated and are kept informed at all stages of the justice process from the moment of reporting a crime.

Elite Irish police unit criticized over robbery ambush toll

By Edward Gorman, Irish Affairs Correspondent

An internal inquiry by senior Irish police officers was under way last night after ballistic evidence showed extraordinary incompetence on the part of officers during an armed siege last week.

The siege at Athy, Co Kildare, came after an attempted bank robbery by an armed gang which had been under surveillance by a specially trained police unit since setting off from Dublin earlier in the day. During an ensuing gun battle one of the five robbers was killed and two injured, one seriously.

A bank teller was shot in the back and a porter received minor wounds. Three detectives were wounded, including Detective Garda John O'Mahoney, who was hit in the groin and the legs. A passer-by was slightly wounded.

After the shooting, at the small square outside the Bank of Ireland, the Garda press office issued statements saying detectives had opened fire only after members of the gang started shooting.

Yesterday, however, it was disclosed that ballistic tests on police weapons and guns carried by the robbers showed the gang had not fired a shot during the episode. It appears that not only had the police opened fire without being shot at, but they had also wounded six people who were not members of the gang, three of whom were fellow officers.

For ordinary police this may be embarrassing; in this case the unit involved, which is usually armed with weapons including Uzi sub-machine-guns and pump-action shot-guns, is regarded as the best in Ireland.

The *Irish Times* said the unit was styled as the Emergency Response Unit, part of the Security Task Force which is part of the Special Branch. It is apparently so secret there has been no official confirmation that it exists.

The officers are the experts relied on to deal with hijackings and hostage situations. Apart from firearm skills, they are trained in negotiation techniques and are involved in security for embassies and government offices in Dublin.

During Ireland's presidency of the European Community they have an important part to play and are expected to be involved in security arrangements for the 12 Community foreign ministers who arrive in Dublin this weekend.

The Garda inquiry into the Athy incident is also expected to examine why the press office issued no less than five substantially different versions of what happened and

why, in spite of the stake-out, the unit involved was reportedly "taken by surprise" when the robbers arrived.

It is believed the unit tracking the gang from Dublin forgot to tell those waiting for them that the robbers were on their way. The bank staff were not told of the stake-out or that an armed robbery was anticipated.

In response to mounting political pressure over the affair, Mr Ray Burke, Justice Minister, released a statement last night in which he confirmed that none of the robbers' weapons had been fired.

Mr Burke said it was a matter of deep regret that life was lost and injuries sustained during the attempted robbery.

"It is, however, an unfortunate fact of life that in today's circumstances Gardaí have to use weapons to counter the threat presented by armed gunmen on the streets."

● A call by a Roman Catholic bishop for an independent inquiry into the shooting of three men in Belfast by the Army last Saturday was rejected yesterday by Mr Peter Brooke, Secretary of State for Northern Ireland.

Dr Cahal Daly, Bishop of Down and Connor, said the shootings had caused a "crisis of credibility" for the security forces in the eyes of the community. His comments came as John McNeill, the third man killed in the bungled Falls Road betting shop robbery, was buried in west Belfast after a funeral attended by about 100 mourners.

Royal Ulster Constabulary detectives, meanwhile, were continuing to interview a man arrested on Tuesday in connection with the robbery.

Dr Daly said the aspect which concerned him most was that those who had been expressing greatest concern about what actually took place, were not propagandists but respected people.

● The Supreme Court in Dublin reserved judgement in an appeal by Dermot Finucane to prevent his extradition to Ulster. He is wanted in connection with the mass break-out from the Maze prison in September, 1983.

● The Law Lords reserved judgement yesterday on whether Royal Ulster Constabulary officers involved in an undercover operation seven years ago should be compelled to give evidence at an inquest into the deaths of three terrorist suspects.

● A French court has postponed until March its decision on whether to extradite three suspected IRA terrorists to West Germany.

Young's question time

DENZIL MANSERANCE



Lord Young of Graffham arrives at Westminster yesterday to answer questions from the Commons trade and industry committee over the sale of Rover Group to British Aerospace.

Drink driving

Refusal to give police wider powers criticized

By Ray Clancy and Richard Ford

The Home Secretary yesterday encouraged police to set up checkpoints on roads outside public houses and on the outskirts of towns and villages as part of efforts to crack down on drunken driving.

Mr David Waddington said police throughout England and Wales already had the power to carry out random breath tests and in Sussex those powers were being used as police stopped every vehicle in some streets or as they left villages and subjected drivers to breathalyzer tests.

As MPs, chief police officers and campaigners against drink drivers criticized the Government's decision not to give the police extra powers to conduct random breath tests, Mr Waddington said some people did not understand the potential of the present law.

"The job therefore is to encourage the police to go in for vigorous enforcement of the law to teach the public how strong the present law is," he said.

He added that if people

went to Sussex they would see cars being stopped in a street and drivers subjected to breath tests, with similar operations taking place on every vehicle leaving particular villages.

The decision by the Cabinet home affairs committee not to give police extra powers was seen as a victory for Mr Waddington and Sir Patrick Mayhew, the Attorney General. Mr Cecil Parkinson, Secretary of State for Transport, supported wider powers.

Mr Peter Joslin, Chief Constable of Warwickshire and chairman of the Association of Chief Police Officers, said he was disappointed by the decision because there was wide support for random testing among the public and ministers at the Department of Transport.

He said the decision was a setback. Polls in recent years have suggested that over 80 per cent of the public support some additional powers to prevent death and injury caused by drink drivers.

The decision was described

as "astonishing and cynical" by the Parliamentary Advisory Council for Transport Safety. Mr Stephen Day, co-chairman of the council said: "It is a missed opportunity to save lives."

He said the Government was going against the advice of professionals, politicians from all parties and consultation which showed 3,000 out of 3,400 respondents wanted a significant change in the law.

Mr Graham Buxton, secretary of the Campaign Against Drinking and Driving, said: "The Government has ignored the pleas of every single caring motoring organization in the country and listened instead to the objections of the brewers."

Under the Road Traffic Act 1972, police can stop a car at random but have to show "reasonable cause" to suspect a driver has been drinking before they breathalyze.

The Opposition condemned the decision, saying existing police powers were not a substitute for random breath testing.

Chaos in courts may lead to delays

By Frances Gibb
Legal Affairs Correspondent

The Lord Chancellor faces mounting pressure from senior judges to delay his plans for moving many cases from the High Court to the county courts. Judges say the county courts are inadequately funded and staffed.

The state of the county courts, described by Lord Ackner as a "scandal", is now the biggest stumbling block to government plans to reform the court system.

So far the Lord Chancellor, Lord Mackay of Clashfern, has stood firm on his proposals to devolve cases to the county courts in the Courts and Legal Services Bill. But senior judges and peers are expected to offer amendments preventing Lord Mackay from acting without the agreement of the Lord Chief Justice, Lord Lane, who has said the court infrastructure is crumbling.

Yesterday, the Law Society reported instances of delays in the county courts gathered by more than 30 solicitors' firms around the country. An official said: "The most horrifying example comes from Swindon county court, where a solicitor was trying to obtain an injunction to protect a woman from a violent former boyfriend. That took six weeks."

The Lord Chancellor has already received evidence that Hastings county court was said to be more than a month behind in dealing with post and that Wandsworth county court almost ran out of money for postage and was only able to answer letters that came with stamped reply envelopes.

Concern over the county courts has been fuelled by the Lord Chief Justice who said that "in one large complex (in London), 50 per cent of the staff have less than six months' experience", and that "supply of *The Times* has been cut off in most courts as a measure of economy."

The Lord Chancellor's Department said yesterday that there were problems for the courts this year with an expected 6 per cent increase in workload which was not foreseen. "We are well aware of the problem and are taking steps to improve matters."

CORRECTION

Emma Nicholson's article, "Now medical records go on the open market" (December 28), as edited, suggested that pharmacists were not "bound by the ethic of confidentiality". The Royal Pharmaceutical Society of Great Britain issues a code of ethics to its members instructing them to respect confidentiality.

By the way, the *Times* overseas edition, which is published in London, is available in the following countries: Australia, Canada, Hong Kong, India, Japan, New Zealand, Singapore, South Africa, Taiwan, Thailand, USA, and elsewhere. The price is £1.00 (US \$2.50).

Beware risk of underclass, says Scarman

By Charles Kneivt

Britain could develop a permanent underclass in which the young "feel so frustrated and so alienated from the rest of society that they see no future for themselves", Lord Scarman said yesterday.

The Brixton riots in 1981 had shown the threat of an alienated section of the community. An underclass would develop if steps were not taken to prevent it, he said in London at the launch of the fifth annual Community Enterprise Scheme.

He had become aware of the importance of the effect of the built environment, especially housing, on people's lives, during the public inquiry into

the riots. There were no panaceas, however.

"A whole number - a myriad - of small enterprises, co-ordinated but with one purpose", could help to solve inner-city problems. The Community Enterprise Scheme helped to identify local leaders who enable communities to create their own environment.

It is sponsored by *The Times*, the Royal Institute of British Architects and Business in the Community. There are three new categories of award this year: for community architecture, community training and community business. Prize money has been increased to more than £30,000. The closing date for entries is March 7.

The Prince of Wales, patron



of the scheme, said in a statement read out by Lord Scarman: "Local involvement by people in creating their own environment can make a substantial contribution to a more viable and sustainable future."

"Building communities requires commitment and confidence, tenacity and leader-

ship; but above all, a shared vision of what might be."

He quoted the New Age writer, Theodore Roszak, from his book, *Where The Wasteland Ends*:

"I can think of 40 reasons why none of these projects can possibly succeed and 40 different tones of wry cynicism in which to express my well-documented doubts."

"But I also know that it is more humanly beautiful to risk failure seeking for the hidden springs than to resign to the futurelessness of the wasteland. For the springs are there to be found."

Lord Scarman added: "If enough of us act on these words, we will solve the problem of the underclass developing in our inner cities." The

scheme is supported by the Calouste Gulbenkian Foundation, the Community Projects Foundation, the National Children's Play and Recreation Unit and the Housing Associations Charitable Trust.

Commercial sponsors of individual awards are Barclays Bank, Shell (UK), Marks & Spencer and the Post Office.

In addition to the nine categories of entry, the Charles Douglas-Home Award will be presented to the most outstanding entry.

For information and entry forms contact: Robin Dent, Community Enterprise Scheme, RIBA, 66 Portland Place, London W1N 4AD. Telephone 01-580 5533.

Spectrum, page 13



Lord Scarman (right) talking yesterday to Mr Rod Hackney, the community architect.

Electrician accused of manslaughter over shoddy wiring

By David Sapsted

An electrician yesterday went on trial for the manslaughter of a young father killed by an electric shock from a sink after a central heating system was wrongly wired.

The case against Stephen Holloway is believed to be the first in which allegations of poor workmanship have resulted in the Crown Prosecution Service bringing such a charge.

Mr Nicholas French, aged 23, died at his grandmother's home in High Helden, Kent, in May 1988 when he touched the steel sink as he stood on a slightly damp floor in stockinged feet. Mr Michael Worsley, QC, said for the prosecution that the shock was so strong that Mr French could not let go of the sink.

Mr Worsley told Maidstone Crown Court that Mr Holloway had undertaken the electrical work at Mrs Eva Hukins's home after the installation of oil-fired central heating just before Christmas, 1987.

His work was "so badly, negligently and, indeed, reck-

lessly" done that it resulted in Mr French's death. The crucial error, Mr Worsley said, was the fact that Mr Holloway had connected the live pin in the central heating programmer to the earth in the junction box which resulted, at times, in all the radiators and pipework in the house being live.

The problem was compounded by the fact that there was a faulty circuit-breaker - which was not Mr Holloway's fault - in the house's ageing electrical system.

Any competent electrician should have tested the circuit-breaker after the family complained about getting shocks from the system, Mr Worsley said. Mr Holloway had not done so, even though he had checked his work at least twice, once after a delivery driver had received such a severe shock that he had fallen off the oil storage tank.

Mr Worsley said Mr Holloway, self-employed as an electrician for more than 20 years after serving a five-year apprenticeship with a Surrey

firm, could be found guilty only if the jury found him responsible not only for a breach of the duty of care, but also of recklessness.

Mr Holloway, aged 42, of Goddington Park, Ashford, Kent, denies manslaughter.

Members of Mr French's family described the shocks they had received, and Mrs Hukins, aged 78, rejected suggestions from Mr Roger Tiberidge, QC, for the defence, that she had experienced only a slight shock when she touched the draining board with a wet cloth. "They were more than tingles: they were shocks. They really made you jump," she said.

Her daughter, Mrs Carol French, said she had telephoned the central heating engineer after receiving a mild shock from one of the radiators but had been told the cause was static electricity.

Mr John Lilley, Mrs Hukins's son-in-law, said Mr Holloway had checked the system and told him there was nothing wrong with his work. The case continues today.

Life for knife murders

A Dutchman who murdered his estranged wife and her parents on a weekend trip to England was given three life sentences at the Central Criminal Court yesterday.

Rene Hillebrand, aged 21, grinned as he was found guilty of the murders. In the public gallery, some relatives of the victims wept while others waved and clapped at the verdicts of the jury of five women and seven men. Judge

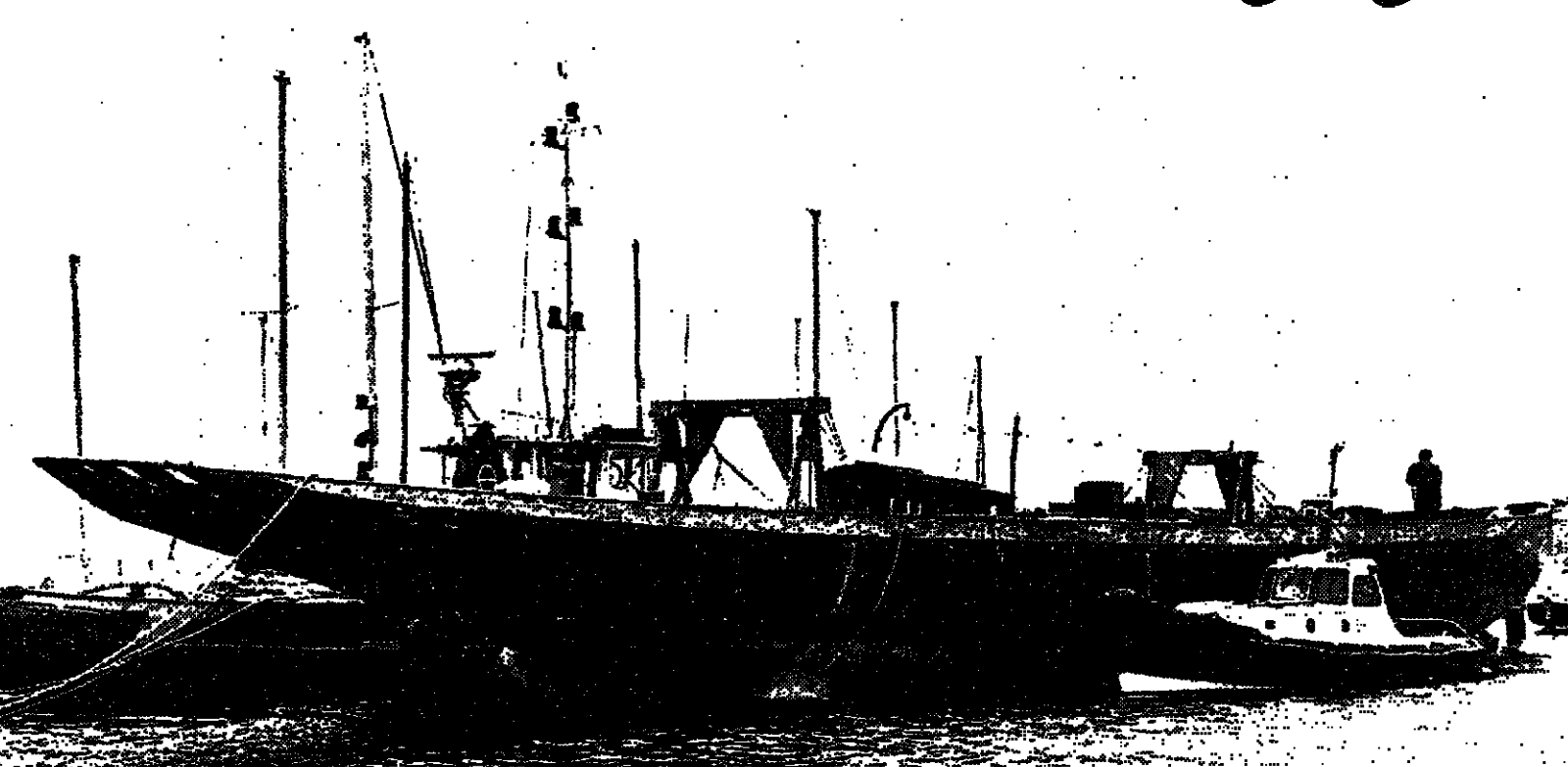
Lymbery, QC, told Hillebrand that he would have to be sentenced to life imprisonment even if the jury had found him guilty of manslaughter. He said it would be for the Home Secretary to decide whether Hillebrand should serve his sentence in this country or in The Netherlands.

He told Hillebrand: "You have a severe personality disorder", and said he had no

doubt that in stressful circumstances he would continue to be a danger to the public.

Hillebrand repeatedly stabbed his 25-year-old wife, Dawn, and her parents, Alan and Margaret Sturgeon, in the kitchen of their detached bungalow in Whitehall Lane, Slade Green in south-east London. However, he claimed that the final death stabs were mercy killings and that he hugged Dawn as she died.

New life ahead for British racing legend



Below, Laila in her heyday off Cowes in 1930; above, being towed from Hamble Yard for restoration at Gosport at the start of a new life.

'Freak' yacht saved from anonymity on a mud bank

Laila, the world's biggest gaff cutter, was last weekend floated off the mud berth on which she has languished for the past three years to prepare for a new lease of life. She will undergo a two-year refit at the Gosport yard of Camper and Nicholson before heading to a life of private cruising in the Mediterranean and Caribbean for foreign owners.

The 120-foot racing yacht, originally named Terpsichore, was built in 1920 for £30,000. Because of the post-war wood shortage, she was the first of her class to be fitted with a steel mast and frame, although her planking was of mahogany. In ten years of competitive sailing, the yacht, renamed Laila, won 114 out of 210 starts, and was the only British racing yacht to beat the Americas Cup challenger Shamrock V.

Her legendary success inspired enthusiasts such as King George V and Sir Thomas Lipton, the tea magnate, to mount increasingly ambitious challenges and to make improvements to their own boats which were instrumental to the evolution of the J-class yachts. In 1937, she was retired by her owner, Carl Bendix, the chocolateier, and converted into a two-mast ketch.

Laila was damaged during the Second World War and, although repaired, never sailed again. In 1947, Mr Clement Lucas, her new owner, even toyed with the idea of scrapping her hull and using her accommodation in the refurbishment of his other yacht. He was dissuaded, and his wife lived on the boat, moored on the bank of the River Hamble, Hampshire, until 1987.

Restoration work is expected to take around two years, and will include replacing 40 per cent of her hull planking, and building a new 180-foot mast. Her interior mahogany panelling and silver fittings are in very good condition. "She's a monstrous freak," Mr William Collier, Camper and Nicholson's vintage yacht broker, said. "But they don't make them like that anymore, and I was determined to save her."

25p fine for Tube smoker 'derisory'

By Ray Clancy

The police and London Underground management yesterday criticized the decision by a magistrate to fine a man caught smoking on the Tube a "derisory 25p".

The fine imposed by Miss Audrey Jennings, a stipendiary magistrate at Wells Street court, was described as a "kick in the teeth" for staff trying to maintain high safety standards since 31 people died in the King's Cross fire in November, 1987.

The controversial fine was imposed on Mr Noel Daly, aged 30, of Tooting, south London, on Tuesday. He was fined in his absence, under the London Underground by-law 20 which states that smoking is prohibited.

Mr Daly was arrested last April at Baker Street station after a policeman saw him put a cigarette behind his back. According to London Underground figures, more than 100 people have been convicted in the past two years of illegal smoking and faced fines ranging from £10 to £100, the maximum is £200.

"This 25p fine is extremely derisory. It is a kick in the teeth for our staff who are working extremely hard to uphold the law. It is undermining their efforts at a time when they are under particular pressure to maintain standards," Mr Denis Tunnicliffe, managing director of London Underground, said.

Inspector John Bryant, of British Transport Police, said there was nothing to stop magistrates imposing "such derisory, disgusting and totally irresponsible fines". "We cannot appeal against this conviction because the defendant was charged under a by-law and therefore does not have a criminal conviction. The fine really is a joke."

Mr Daly was reported to have said it was a friend who was smoking and that he was arrested after refusing police instructions to stay on the train.

Miss Jennings said she was not able to discuss the case. The Crown Prosecution Service, which brought the prosecution after the case was handed over by British Transport Police, also refused to comment.

London Regional Transport yesterday agreed to judgement being entered against it on the issue of liability in the cases of one victim and a seriously injured survivor of the King's Cross fire.

The amount of damages to be paid to Mr Ron Lipsius, aged 32, a musician, and the family of Mr John St Pric, who died in the fire, will be decided at a later date, a private hearing in the High Court was told.

Unknown virus family believed to cause 'mad cow' diseases

Possible BSE human link 'must be answered'

Possible links between a fatal brain disease in humans and two similar infections in cattle and sheep must be investigated thoroughly, specialists said yesterday.

The scientists believe that in spite of the Government's attitude that there is no evidence that people can contract bovine spongiform encephalopathy (BSE), or "mad cow" disease, a "guilty until proven innocent" approach should be adopted by researchers.

The triangle of incurable disorders is made up of BSE, scrapie in sheep and Creutzfeldt-Jacob disease, which affects one person in a million in

The Government tried yesterday to persuade Brussels to lift the German ban on British beef because of "mad cow" disease as British scientists launched a £12 million investigation. Thomson Prentice and Pearce Wright report.

Britain. A family of viruses, yet to be identified, is believed to cause all three.

The Government announced last week a £12 million research programme into BSE after an expert report urged investigations into the origins of the disease.

An editorial in the scientific journal *Nature* today welcomes the funding but says the "chilling" question of whether humans are at risk by consum-

ing meat from infected cattle must be answered. Specialists in human and veterinary medicine expressed similar concerns yesterday.

Nature says: "The question is the more chilling because the evidently infectious organisms responsible for scrapie and BSE are still obscure. It is hard enough... that there should be viruses, such as that responsible for AIDS, to which there is as yet no certain

defence. What is to be made of an infectious agent yet to be characterized."

Some parallels with AIDS can be drawn because it is caused by a virus with a latency of up to 15 years. Creutzfeldt-Jacob disease, BSE and scrapie are brain conditions which progress slowly after infection.

BSE was only discovered in November 1986 after cattle were fed meal containing tis-

sue from sheep infected with scrapie. It is generally accepted that the conditions are caused by the same infective agent. Similarities between scrapie, which affects 30 per cent of sheep flocks in Britain, and BSE are being investigated by a neuropathogenesis unit at the Institute of Animal Health, Edinburgh.

There have been no more than about 50 cases a year of Creutzfeldt-Jacob disease since it was diagnosed in 1920. Scientists are trying to find whether there has been a change in incidence in recent years. If there is a link with BSE, an increase in CJD should become

apparent some years after the cattle disease is recognized.

Dr Hugh Fraser, one of the researchers, said yesterday: "I believe the risk is remote but it is necessary to anticipate the worst scenario. In AIDS, HIV is known to be the cause. No equivalent cause has been found in scrapie or BSE."

A report prepared for the European Community veterinary committee, which includes West German specialists, claims that BSE is not a danger to public health. Mr Keith Meldrum, head of Britain's veterinary service, said there was no justification for the West German ban.

Kidney seller is not a criminal, professor says

By John Young

It was not criminal to accept payment for donating a kidney, a former professor of medicine told a General Medical Council disciplinary hearing yesterday.

Professor Geoffrey Thomas, who held the chair of obstetrics and gynaecology at Madras University in India, said in a statement that the donor "has for sale what another person not only desires but actually needs". The patient can afford to pay for the kidney - indeed he can pay the surgeon and the hospital and does so however he obtains the kidney, either by paying from his

own pocket or through the National Health Service through his taxes. "It is no crime to need money and it is no crime to raise it by selling what one has to offer."

His statement was read by Professor Geoffrey Alderman, professor of politics and contemporary history at Holloway and Bedford College, London University. He was giving evidence in defence of Dr Raymond Crockett, one of three doctors charged with serious professional misconduct in relation to the alleged sale of kidneys for transplant. The other two are Mr Michael Bewick, a transplant surgeon, and Mr Michael Joyce, a urologist. Professor Alder-

man produced a statement, which he said had been sent to him after a letter of his appeared in *The Times* on February 4 last year. The statement, by Professor Thomas, was accepted as evidence by the GMC's professional conduct committee.

In his statement, made before legislation outlawing the sale of human organs was passed last year, Professor Thomas said that a man accepting a fee for his kidney should not be branded as a criminal. "Talk of morals in this context is inappropriate. Is the surgeon the worse off for removing the kidney of a healthy man?" Professor Thomas asks.

"Personally I should not care to do it, but nobody condemns vasectomy performed for the sake of convenience."

Professor Alderman told the hearing yesterday that in his view no monetary value could be placed on a kidney. The giving of a kidney was itself an act of altruism, regardless of whether any money changed hands.

Mr Anthony Arledge, QC, for Dr Crockett, said the hearing had been told earlier of a clinic in India where a donor was paid a so-called "salutium", usually £1,000. "Would you see any objection to that being done in India?" he asked Professor Alderman. "None at all," Professor

Alderman replied. Would he see any objection to a similar practice in Britain in cases where a kidney might not be readily available? No was the answer.

Professor Alderman said he saw nothing unethical if a poor person chose to better his position by making an organ available to a rich person.

Earlier, Dr Mohammed Al Kutoubi told the hearing that Mr Ahmet Koc, a Turkish donor who claimed that his kidney was removed without his knowledge or consent had in fact received a full explanation before the operation. The hearing continues today.

PORTFOLIO

£4,000 to develop new shop

The winner of yesterday's £4,000 Portfolio Platinum prize was Mrs Janet Henderson, of St Andrews, Fife, Scotland.

Mrs Henderson said she had been day-dreaming about holidays in the sun after her "fantastic luck", but decided to use the money to develop her new business. She opened "Practical Presses" in Perth nine months ago. The shop sells a variety of aids for the disabled, including left-handed scissors and large-button telephones.

Now Mrs Henderson will be able to expand her stock. "There is a buyers' fair coming up in Birmingham at the beginning of February," she said.



Mrs Henderson: Money to help her business.

Thatcher's beat

PAUL WALTERS



Mr Denis Thatcher sports a police motorcyclist's helmet in Bristol yesterday to promote the Crime Stoppers campaign.

Call for legislation opposed

Cross-ownership of media 'no threat to competition'

By Richard Evans, Media Editor

Ownership of satellite television channels by a newspaper proprietor poses no threat to media diversity or competition, according to a book by a leading free-market economist.

Dr Canto Veljanovski, research and editorial director of the Institute of Economic Affairs, gives that view in *The Media in Britain Today*, the first comprehensive study of the fast-expanding British media industry. The book was launched yesterday by News International, which includes among its subsidiaries Times Newspapers (publisher of *The Times* and *The Sunday Times*) and Sky Television.

British Satellite Broadcasting, which is due to launch five satellite channels in the spring, has been leading calls for legislation to prevent News International from being allowed to own Sky's four channels as well as newspapers. Newspaper companies are not allowed to own ITV stations.

In his book Dr Veljanovski says "where there are 50 or more television channels,

many with small audiences, the fact that a newspaper proprietor has a controlling interest in several satellite channels does not pose a real threat to diversity or to competition."

Although his views are similar to those advocated by News International in its campaign to fight off further restrictions on ownership in more than one medium, Dr Veljanovski says he had a free brief when writing the book.

"I would not have put my name to anything that did not reflect my views of the industry. I don't think I have come up with conclusions comfortable to anyone," he said yesterday.

The Media in Britain Today (Collins, £25).

Independent Television News is to bid for one of the three new national radio franchises and provide the first commercial nationwide news and current affairs station.

Sir David Nicholas, chairman and chief executive of ITN, confirmed the business plan yesterday as the company

announced it would be providing hourly news bulletins to some of the recently franchised "new wave" local radio stations.

The franchise for the first new national station is expected to be advertised by the Radio Authority early next year and broadcasting could begin within months.

Sir David said ITN was still waiting to hear if ownership restrictions would prevent the company from bidding for complete ownership of a national radio station. The Independent Broadcasting Authority indicated last night there would be no difficulties.

ITN Radio News, meanwhile, is hiring eight radio journalists to provide hourly bulletins and half-hourly highlights from March 4 for several of the new stations.

WNL in north London, Sunrise Radio in west London and Bradford City Radio have signed contracts, while Harmony (Coventry), FTP (Bristol) and Choice (south London) have made firm commitments to take news.

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School play fields pose safety risk to pupils, survey says

By David Tytler, Education Editor

Many school gymnasiums and playing fields are badly maintained and could even threaten the safety of pupils, according to a report from the schools' inspectors published yesterday.

An inspection of 16 secondary schools in the South-west and the North of England in 1988 and 1989 found that the "maintenance of work areas on school sites was unsatisfactory in several ways".

The inspectors report: "Deficiencies ranged from fundamental problems such as badly drained playing fields and a buckled gymnasium floor to the potential safety hazards of broken stop (chain link) fencing and poorly prepared jumping pits."

Changing rooms were "sometimes dingy and unwelcoming places". Cleaning was generally satisfactory but teachers sometimes carried out extra cleaning themselves, particularly if the facilities were heavily used outside normal working hours.

The report says that good conditions helped to maintain good teaching standards. "Where conditions were favourable with well-maintained and clean work areas the teaching and learning were considerably enhanced."

Teachers, however, made the best of what was available.

"Despite the constraints of poor maintenance and demands made on indoor accommodation for examinations and school productions, the facilities were being used effectively."

The inspectors say that teachers sometimes had to find extra space for themselves. One disused space, for example, was converted into an area for fitness training while at another school cupboards were built to increase the storage capacity of a sports hall.

The report also says that schools should consider boys and girls playing competitive sports together. Mixed classes were run successfully in some schools "with pupils showing maturity during co-operative group activities."

They add: "High quality competition was also demonstrated in basketball and hockey. Where skill is the determining factor and where preparation has been equally rigorous for both sexes, mixed competitions are a realistic possibility."

The schools were chosen to "exemplify" good practice but no one school produced high standards in all respects. Of the 143 lessons observed, 46 per cent were judged to be very good with some outstanding features or good with no significant shortcomings.

36 per cent were satisfactory and a further 18 per cent fell short of a desirable standard.

● Governors at a school who suspended two Muslim girls for wearing traditional headscarves last night hinted at a compromise to defuse the growing controversy over their decision (Douglas Brown writes).

Fatima Alvi, aged 15, and her sister Aisha, aged 14, have been suspended from Altrincham Girls Grammar School, Trafford, Greater Manchester, since the start of term for refusing to remove their Islamic headgear.

The school has said the headscarves are a safety hazard and banned by school uniform rules. The girls' father, Dr Abdur Rab Alvi, a consultant ophthalmologist, says the scarves are required by their religion. He has lodged a formal complaint with the Commission for Racial Equality.

Mr Roy Godwin, deputy chairman of Trafford Borough Council and a governor at the school, said that the governing body would reconsider its decision at a meeting next Tuesday.

A Survey of Work in Physical Education in 16 Secondary Schools (Department of Education and Science, Honey Pot Lane, Staines, Middlesex HA7 1AZ, free).

Pupils discover a taste for enterprise

Small businesses are about to spring up all over the country as primary school children launch commercial enterprises (David Tytler writes).

A nationwide scheme was announced yesterday by Mr John MacGregor, Secretary of State for Education and Science, to encourage children as young as five to set up their own companies as part of the National Curriculum.

The Primary School Project has been successfully run by Durham University Business School in Gateshead and Co Durham with £200,000 from Marks & Spencer and will be available to schools throughout England and Wales.

Pupils aged five to 11 will use comic-strip instruction books to learn how to draw up a business plan, borrow money from banks to fund their ideas, carry out market research among potential customers, create the best image for products or services, and market and sell at the right price.

The organizers emphasize that schemes do not necessarily have to make a profit and point to green enterprises such as designing and developing a nature reserve or setting up a school recycling plant, or charitable projects, including a red-cross day for Comic Relief.

A class of nine-year-olds at Bill Quay school, Gateshead, raised £40 and started its own company, Clancy Catering. The children opened a school sweet shop and provided a buffet lunch for the Mayor of Gateshead and 24 guests. About £250 passed through the account and a final profit of £50 was made. Most will be spent on a planetarium visit.

Children at Birtley East primary school, near Gateshead, raised a £40 bank loan, then found out what ingredients they needed and bought them in bulk at the local cash-and-carry.



Penny-wise: Children from Birtley East primary school sample their toffee at the national launch of the enterprise project.

He said the project had improved the children's confidence. The tack shop is still running, but is now selling as many apples as sweets.

Mr MacGregor said the scheme would help to enhance the growing links between schools and industry. He said: "If education fails to prepare

pupils for the world outside school it would be a flawed education and it is never too late to start that preparation."

A survey by his department showed that 90 per cent of secondary schools and more than 50 per cent of primary schools had links with local businesses. He said it also disclosed that many teachers had experience of industry: "Ninety-eight per cent of secondary schools and nearly

90 per cent of primary schools had at least one member of staff who had previously worked in industry.

"The benefits to businesses of links with local schools are obvious. If firms are to be able to attract the young people they will need in an increasingly competitive future, it will help them enormously if they are positively regarded in the local community, and known in the schools."

Medical complaint hearings

Ban on paid lawyers a 'farce'

By Frances Gibb, Legal Affairs Correspondent

The ban on paid lawyers at the hearing of complaints about doctors, dentists and other medical practitioners such as opticians is a "farce", the Council on Tribunals says in its annual report published yesterday.

The council says that because of the ban, such proceedings are "unsatisfactory and artificial". In its report for 1988-89, it calls for the ban to be lifted and for free legal representation to be extended to complainants who cannot afford to pay.

The council has sought for some time to persuade the Government that change is needed in the complaints procedures for medical practitioners.

However, it has not had

sufficient impact. In other tribunals, there is normally no restriction on who can act as a representative, the council says. Paid lawyers are banned from appearing before the service committees of the family practitioner committees, which deal with complaints about medical practitioners.

This puts complainants at a disadvantage, compared with doctors, it says. Doctors, who are typically more articulate than complainants, usually have expert assistance at hearings while quite often the complainants have none.

The report says: "It should not be necessary or possible to perpetuate the present farce in which a party is prompted throughout by an adviser, an

unsatisfactory and artificial proceeding which... is capable of causing audible distraction when the parties are seated at a conference table within a few feet of each other."

Proceedings would be improved greatly if service committees had independent and legally qualified chairmen. This would help the efficient running of hearings and help ensure committees were perceived as independent, it says.

The council also says that complaints take too long to process. After the hearings, the family practitioner committees take too long to reach a decision. Up to nine months may elapse from the initial complaint to a recommendation made after a service committee hearing. It could

take another six weeks for a decision by the family practitioner committee.

The council calls on the Government to take a fresh look at the complaints procedure. Even with changes proposed by the Government, the procedure will still be weighted too greatly in favour of the practitioner, it says.

The council also calls for improvements in procedures for traffic commissioners, who license public service and goods vehicles. There are inconsistencies in the way they are appointed, it says. Qualifications are imprecise, yet deputy traffic commissioners alone have a legal background.

Council on Tribunals' Annual Report for 1988-89 (Stationery Office, Cm 1113; £7.90)

Women doctors try self defence

By Mark Souster

Women doctors training to be general practitioners have taken a self-defence course to protect themselves on house calls. They are worried about possible attacks, particularly at night, from drug addicts, violent patients and rapists.

During the two-day course, held last weekend, the women were taught basic martial arts techniques. It was organized by Dr Barbara Wesley, a GP trainee based in London, after two male doctors were attacked while on calls.

Dr Wesley, aged 40, editor of the *Women in Medicine* newsletter, said: "I suddenly thought about how I would cope on a dark, seedy estate at night. GPs now seem to be concerned about self-defence - they are certainly concerned about going out on night visits."

The British Medical Association attempted to tackle the problem of violence against doctors last year when, with the Association of Chief Police Officers, it issued a set of guidelines to protect GPs and their staff from violence. It came in response to disturbing signs of increasing violence against family doctors.

A survey by the Cambridge Family Practitioner Committee showed that 40 per cent of GPs had experienced violence and another in Birmingham showed that 91 per cent suffered verbal abuse. The self-defence course was designed to show that GPs do not have to be Olympic standard sprinters or karate black belts to defend themselves against the unexpected.

Dr Wesley is one of several of the self-defence enthusiasts who admit they have been faced with a patient who suddenly became violent.

Dr Rachel Lambert, a trainee from Surrey, said she successfully diffused a potentially violent situation while visiting a mentally ill male patient in his remote caravan.

She said: "I coped with it and managed to avoid physical violence by talking him out of it."

RSC cuts productions and sheds 60 actors

By Simon Tait, Arts Correspondent

The Royal Shakespeare Company is presenting its thinnest season since the 1970s with fewer plays and a company reduced by a third.

There will be only 19 productions this year, compared with 27 last year and 32 in 1988. The company's accumulated deficit, to be announced in March, is likely to be £2.5 million.

Only four theatres are to be used for the second year in succession, compared with six in 1987. Mr Terry Hands, artistic director, said yesterday.

An experiment of giving actors six-month contracts to allow them more time for other work is being abandoned at their request. This year, however, there will be only 65 actors at each of the RSC's venues, London and Stratford-upon-Avon, compared with 90 in Stratford and 100 in London last year.

Mr Hands said that 12 per cent extra funding for arts won from the Treasury by Mr Richard Luce, Minister for the Arts, and the 11 per cent increase allocated to the company by the Arts Council had loosened the grip of financial crisis "but we are not out of the woods yet."

He said the increase in real terms for 1990 was 3.3 per cent, or £179,000, the cost of one big new production. "If this increased funding is the beginning of a new life in the arts, then it's wonderful. If it's just a one-off, we'll be back to square one. We still have to

cope with these deficits." Hopes are being pinned on a new musical with an ecological theme, which aims to repeat the phenomenal success of another musical venture for the RSC, *Les Misérables*, which is earning it £1 million a year.

The company is meeting half the £700,000 cost of *Children of Eden*, a co-production at the Barbican for next Christmas. "It's a 'green' show," Mr Hands said. "It's based on the Book of Genesis and in a time before people started killing each other."

The director is John Caird, co-director of *Les Misérables*, with music and lyrics by Stephen Schwartz, who created *Godspell*, the award-winning musical.

There is also to be a new version of Lionel Bart's 1970s musical *Blitz*, based on the original music and lyrics but with a new book by Tony Marchant. The production, part of the Barbican repertoire from September, celebrates the fifth anniversary of the Blitz in which the buildings on the Barbican site were destroyed.

Another successful RSC musical, *Les Liaisons Dangereuses*, is to have a UK and international tour this year, while remaining in production in the West End.

The classics will play a predominant role in the slimmer down programme.

There are to be six new Shakespeare productions at the main RSC house in Stratford.



Mr Terry Hands: "We are not out of the woods yet."



Mr Richard Luce: Won 12 per cent more for the arts.

ford. In *King Lear*, John Wood is to be directed by Nicholas Hytner in a renewal of the partnership which won critical acclaim in 1988 with *The Tempest*. Other new Shakespeare productions are *Much Ado About Nothing*, *The Comedy of Errors*, *Love's Labour's Lost*, *Richard II*, and *Troilus and Cressida*.

The latter brings one of the most successful young directors to the company. At 23, Sam Mendes already has two plays running in the West End, *The Cherry Orchard* and *London Assurance*.

There will also be four transfers of Shakespeare productions to the Barbican from Stratford with *All's Well That Ends Well*, *As You Like It*, *Coriolanus* and *Pericles*.

There are to be new productions of Marlowe's *Edward II*, which marks the directing debut of the actor Gerard Murphy, and a new Richard Nelson play, *Two Shakespearean Actors*, about the rivalry between two Victorian actors, William Charles Macready and Edwin Forrest, whose simultaneous performances of *Macbeth* in New York in 1849 ended in a riot with 30 deaths.

● The Arts Council is hoping the playwright Vaclav Havel, the new President of Czechoslovakia, will take part in its conference *Arts Without Frontiers* in March.

Clandestine approaches through literary circles and his underground network were made before the collapse of the Communist regime, but with little success.

The Arts Council said: "We have been able to make a formal invitation now, and it is being considered."

The three-day conference, to be held in Glasgow, European City of Culture for 1990, will examine the implications of the single European market on the arts.

Others taking part include Miss Melina Mercouri, the actress and former Greek arts minister, Lord Carrington, former Foreign Secretary, and Sir Richard Attenborough the film director.

Fabergé egg could fetch £1m

SALEROOM

By Sarah Jane Checkland
Art Market Correspondent

A lavishly jewelled and enamelled Easter egg by Fabergé, the Russian imperial jeweller, is expected to raise up to \$1.5 million (about £1 million) at Christie's New York at Easter.

Attracted on to the market by the world record price of £1.87 million for a similar egg at Christie's Geneva last May, it will be sold on April 19. It has been in a private American collection since 1928.

Originally commissioned for his wife by Aleksandr Ferdinandovich Kelch, the industrialist and goldmining entrepreneur who was Fabergé's most frequent patron after the Russian royal family, the egg was one of a series of exquisite toys ordered during the late 1890s and early 1900s as Easter gifts.

Called the "Bonbonnière" egg, it has 12 panels containing trophies signifying love, music and art, and comes

complete with its original velvet-lined case, which bears the imperial warrant of Fabergé.

It opens to reveal an agate box containing another miniature egg.

This will be the second Kelch egg to be auctioned in a year: in Geneva last May the "Pine-Cone" egg broke all records at \$5.28 million (£1.87 million) for a Russian work of art. Of the seven Kelch eggs, one is owned by the Queen, two by the Forbes Magazine collection and four by American collectors.

● A significant Old Master painting which caused amazement when its valuation rose 200,000 times in 1986 was quietly exported to America

four months before an export ban was due to end.

"The Holy Family accompanied by St Lucy", by Annibale Carracci, made its first appearance at a Sotheby's valuation day at Bournemouth in the summer of 1986. The expert told the owner that in his opinion it was worth £400.

It was consigned to Phillips, which initially catalogued it as "attributed to Sisto Badalocchio", but reattributed it to the great 16th-century Bolognese painter Carracci a week before the sale, estimating it at £200,000. It fetched £847,000.

The American dealer Mr Richard Feigen sold it to a collector in the US for £2.2 million. Last July, while this

offer was pending, the painting was put under a six-month temporary export ban on the advice of Mr Neil MacGregor, director of the National Gallery.

Because no national museums had made any efforts to match the sum within two months, the painting went abroad last November.

As the main London auction rooms continued their Christmas holidays yesterday, a collection of fruitwood models of cornices, ceiling roses and dado rails, used by a Lancashire company for the past 80 years in the manufacture of reproduction mirrors and furniture, fetched a total of £38,940 at Sotheby's Chester.

Many had been acquired by members of the family firm from a London furniture factory bombed during the Blitz.

Fourteen lots went to a single telephone buyer.

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Nurse recruitment drive aims to alter 'illiberal' ethos

By Jill Sherman, Social Services Correspondent

A campaign to attract 85,000 former nurses back to work by changing "illiberal and inflexible" management attitudes was launched by the Royal College of Nursing yesterday.

The project, backed by cash from both the private and public sectors, aims at defusing the "demographic time bomb" of a decline in school leavers, who now account for more than 30 per cent of nursing recruits.

"In all the discussions going on about the health service, an amazing how little reference is made to the desperate current shortage of nurses in London and the South-east and the impending worsening shortage that will affect the whole country," Miss Christine Hancock, the college's general secretary, said. "Unless we take action now, the effects on staffing will be disastrous."

The project includes an Open College television course starting next summer to update the skills of would-be returners, to which the Department of Health is contributing £100,000. However, initially the campaign

will be targeted on managers to convince them of the need to attract mature nurses back.

The college is holding a series of roadshows over the coming months to provide a forum for managers and educators to consider nurse staffing difficulties and draw up local strategies.

The roadshows will be backed by four "trigger" videos, which portray examples of intransigent, traditional attitudes from managers and other health service staff.

"There is a major problem of resentful attitudes both in management and in existing nursing staff if there is an attempt to recruit back part-time staff," Miss Hancock said. "The project sets out to alter a management ethos, which at its illiberal and inflexible worst is a positive deterrent to nurses returning."

Miss Hancock said that an estimated 85,000 nurses could be encouraged to return, particularly if flexible or part-time work was offered. Last year the college criticized a recruitment campaign held by the Department of Health as a waste of money as it was targeted at young people

entering nursing for the first time. Last night, Mrs Anne Poole, chief nursing officer at the Department of Health, backed the new initiative.

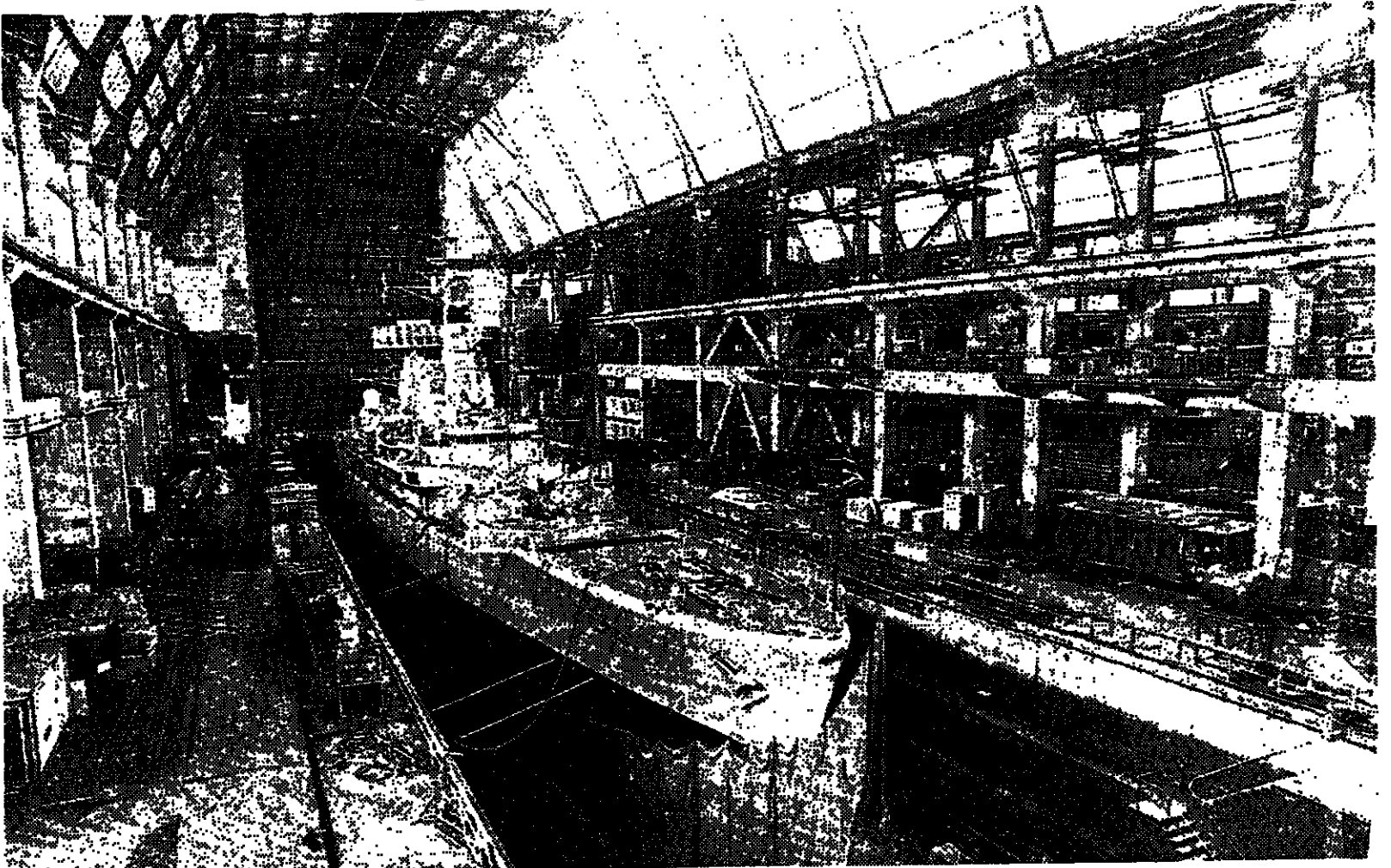
The department's campaign to recruit new people had been successful, but it was also imperative to attract back to nursing those who had previously worked in the profession, she said.

Under the Open College course would-be returners can choose their time to study and where they wish to do clinical practice. The course, backed by videos and workbooks, involves 150 hours' study time, of which 75 should be spent on supervised clinical practice.

Statistics from the college show that the number of entrants to nursing is already declining as those entering training has dropped. In 1988-89 there were 27,868 new recruits, a fall of 20 per cent over four years.

An estimated 30,000 nurses leave the NHS every year, most of them for career breaks rather than other employment. There are now more qualified nurses outside the NHS than in it.

Refit for frigate in all-weather dry dock



HMS Danae, the 2,600-tonne Leander class frigate, undergoing a refit in the covered complex operated by Devonport Management Ltd, which won a seven-year contract to manage the Royal Navy dockyard there in 1987. The complex contains three parallel dry docks, each big enough to hold the Navy's new

"stretched" frigates, which are more than 130 metres long (Libby Jukes writes). Danae, 113 metres long and 12.5 metres wide, was completed in 1967. The Leander class was then the biggest frigate built for the Navy since the Second World War. Powered by two sets of steam turbine engines

generating 30,000 shaft horse power, she is capable of more than 30 knots. Danae normally carries a crew of 230. Her equipment includes a Lynx helicopter, Exocet and Seacat missile systems and anti-submarine torpedoes. The Ministry of Defence said the refit was expected to take 14 months.

Countryside development

Housing land glut is claimed

By Christopher Warman, Property Correspondent

The curse of development hangs over more areas of English countryside than is necessary because of an over-supply of land for housing, the Council for the Protection of Rural England claims today.

The council, responding to the Government's draft guidance on housing planning policy published last October, says in a report that the allocation of land for housing development above the levels agreed in official plans is a key threat to countryside protection, yet the Government's guidance "is written as if there were land shortages".

Explaining the threat, Mr Tony Burton, the council's planning officer, said the draft guidance was wrong in emphasizing that local authorities should not create shortages of housing land.

"There is clear evidence that developers' fears on this front are unfounded. CPRE's analysis shows that the real problem lies in too much land being allocated, not too little."

He welcomed the Government's recent expressions of support for the planning system, but said that to defuse the public controversy over housing development in the countryside local authorities must be able to keep development within agreed guidelines.

"They must be given the confidence and ability to control the rate of release of land for development, to ensure that agreed building levels are not overshot."

The council wants the Government to give detailed advice to local authorities,

empowering them to delay the identification of land for development. In addition, it wants then to control the rate at which it is developed, and to refuse planning permission, even on allocated sites in sensitive areas subject to high development pressure.

It accepts that some new housing development is both necessary and desirable and agrees that greenfield sites will play a part in satisfying requirements, but argues that the objective of the Government's guidance should be to achieve the necessary development with minimum damage to the countryside and maximum advantage to the localities concerned.

The County Planning Officers' Society has said there is a substantial surplus of land identified for housing in the next five years.

● The elderly are being offered grants of £1,000 to spruce up their homes under a new scheme aimed at persuading them to "stay put".

They will also be given special help in deciding what work needs to be done, choosing a good builder, and support during and after the building work.

The idea behind the pilot scheme being run by Sheffield City Council in partnership with the Yorkshire Metropolitan Housing Association, is to encourage old people to keep their homes by providing more home comforts.

The scheme is to be launched in the city's Burngreave and Grimethorpe, areas where there are 6,000 old houses.

Spitfire's engine failed before crash

By Ray Clancy

Mr Charles Church, who died when his restored Spitfire crashed into a field, fought to keep control of the aircraft as it suffered engine failure, an inquest heard yesterday.

He made two mayday calls and requested an emergency landing at nearby Blackbushe airfield, but the plane plummeted to the ground and burst into flames. Mr Church, aged 46, a millionaire property developer, of Micheldever, Hampshire, died from multiple injuries. His body was so badly burnt that it had to be identified from dental records.

Eyewitnesses told the inquest, at Hartley Wintney, Hampshire, that the engine sound was odd just before the crash last July. Mr David

Dougan, a British Airways aircraft engineer who lived near the crash scene, said he had heard the Spitfire earlier in the day as it was being flown to Dunsfold airshow.

"When I first heard the plane go over my garden, the engine sounded beautiful, but when I heard it in the evening is sounded really rough. The engine noise was faltering, catching, falling and then catching. When you hear that noise you know something is badly wrong."

Another eyewitness, Mr Arnold Jones, said he heard the plane's propeller stop. "The pilot banked violently to the left and went out of view. Then I saw a pall of black smoke," he told the inquest.

Mr Richard Melton, the chief engineer for Charles Church Spitfires, said the recently restored mark 5 Spitfire had been air-tested by two RAF pilots, one of whom had flown the plane that morning.

However, Mr Stuart Culling, a senior air accidents inspector, told the inquest the plane had suffered crankshaft failure. It had not been possible to determine if the stress began before or after the last engine overhaul.

A verdict of accidental death was recorded.



Mr Church: Body was badly burnt after crash.

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Executions win mass support in Bucharest poll

textbooks on the countries was being
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English will re-emerge qualified
able.

Scanning Common Primary School. "Hello. My name is Nicholas," he wrote. "I expect you are glad that Mr and Mrs Ceazescu are dead. I hope you are well after the fighting. My favourite sport is hockey, but I play football and cricket. I have light brown hair ..."

"I am handing the letters to a school in Bucharest so that the children can see how their contemporaries in the West were affected by what happened," said Mrs Margaret Abbey, a Berkshire teacher. "I

On the other hand, the bitter hostility towards the much respected former dissident Mr Doina Cornea.

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Mr Lukanov, aged 51, a former foreign trade minister, was promoted to the Politburo

abuse of power by the highest-ranking state officials. The way the Muslim question was dealt with in 1984 was a typical example." It was then

possible to pin responsibility on the former ruler and his closest associates without implicating other senior figures in the party who remain in office.

Most passengers, as in the West, now tumble about the railways, especially the morning after a sleepless night. On the Lithuanian, however, they are now preoccupied

Michael Binyon

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Michael Binyon

هكذا من الاصل

Michael Binyon

THE CHANGING FACE OF EUROPE

Czechs set deadline for withdrawal of Soviet forces

From Peter Green, Prague

The Czech Foreign Ministry said yesterday it had told the Soviet Union to withdraw at least half of its 80,000 troops and arms stationed here before Czechoslovakia holds free parliamentary elections in June.

Prague earlier announced it would like the Kremlin to withdraw all its military forces from the country by the end of 1990.

"The withdrawal should start as soon as possible, and the first stage should be completed before the elections in Czechoslovakia," Mr Lubos Dobrovsky, Foreign Ministry spokesman, said at a press conference on Wednesday.

"I would imagine that half, or may be a little more, of the military might" of the Soviets should be withdrawn by the elections tentatively set for June 8 Mr Dobrovsky said.

The presence of Soviet troops in Czechoslovakia has long been a sore point with the Czech people.

The country's former communist leadership, forced out of power by last November's gentle revolution, was installed by Soviet tanks, and for many Czechs, the threat of renewed Soviet intervention gave the communist leadership its only legitimacy.

The day-to-day presence too, of Soviet troops has raised the ire of ordinary Czechs in much the same way

as the West Germans resent the Nato armies' presence in their country.

"They eat our food, they run people over in the road just because they don't know how to drive tanks," said Miss Jitka Kocanova.

And 21 years ago on Tuesday, a student named Jan Palach burnt himself to death in a gesture aimed at provoking Czechoslovakia's leadership into sending the Soviet troops home.

The Czechoslovak delegation to the talks was apparently dismayed that the Soviet negotiators apparently lacked authority to reach an agreement.

Budapest (Reuter) — A Hungarian state security chief resigned yesterday in a widening scandal over surveillance of opposition parties as Hungary returns to multi-party democracy. The Alliance of Free Democrats revealed documents this month which showed monitoring by the Interior Ministry.

Mr Dobrovsky said Soviet troops showed "a certain degree of surprise" at the Czech demands.

"Perhaps," he said, "the Soviet delegation was granted a narrower scope of authority than we were granted." Mr Dobrovsky added that there was concern on the Czech side

that the ethnic strife and other troubles within the Soviet Union might prevent the Soviet leadership from giving the necessary attention to the their demands.

The Czechoslovaks are insisting the talks resume in Moscow as scheduled, in early February. Soviet negotiators did not comment on the Czech timetable for a complete withdrawal by the end of 1990, nor did they present any counter proposal of their own.

Mr Dobrovsky said the precise timetable Czech negotiators gave the Soviets on Tuesday was "quite feasible" from a technical standpoint.

"After we find a political solution, a technical solution will also be found," he said. "The date of signing of the agreement is not a burning issue for us. The burning issue is when the troops are withdrawn."

Mr Dobrovsky emphasized that Czechoslovakia would maintain its commitments under the Warsaw Pact.

Moscow is seeking to link any withdrawal from Czechoslovakia to wider talks on reducing conventional forces in Europe which are now under way in Vienna. The Soviets have pledged in Vienna to reduce their forces in Eastern Europe by 275,000 men. An agreement is expected to be signed by the end of this year.

Dubcek issues EC challenge



Mr Alexander Dubcek, the president of the Czechoslovakian Parliament, at a press conference in the European Parliament in Strasbourg yesterday, during which he declared that it was "just a matter of time" before Czechoslovakia joined the European Community (Peter Gullford writes).

Mr Dubcek, the prime mover of the Prague Spring, took advantage of his first visit to the West since emerging from 20 years of forced

obscurity as a forestry official to make his surprising announcement.

He said: "We do want to become a member, everything is pointing to this. Our own ideas and the conditions show this is only a matter of time. I can quite justifiably say that Czechoslovakia will enjoy success in this field."

Earlier, he had collected the Sakharov Prize awarded to him last November for his contribution to democracy and human rights.

Shift by Britain on Community links for Berlin

From Ian Murray, Bonn

In a reversal of government policy, Mr William Waldegrave, Minister of State at the Foreign Office, said East Germany has the legal right to expect preferential treatment if it seeks closer links with the European Community.

During a visit to discuss the implications of the changes in Eastern Europe, he said that East Germany had a slightly different legal basis for association or membership because, at West German insistence, a special provision had been included in the original documents establishing the Community. As far as German reunification was concerned, he said that if the people wanted it, then trying to prevent it could destabilize Europe.

Last November, before the special EC summit in Paris concentrating on the East European changes, Britain had argued that there should be no special treatment for East Germany, which was considered to be trailing Hungary and Poland in instituting reforms.

However, as M Jacques Delors, President of the European Commission, made clear in a speech to the European Parliament in Strasbourg yesterday, East Germany is a special case and can join when it wants because of the Community's commitment to German reunification. Other East bloc countries would have to wait longer because they were not politically or economically ready.

Speaking in Paris, Chan-

cellor Kohl of West Germany thanked M Delors for supporting "East Germany's European calling". But the Chancellor also said there should be no special "German way" in the future development of Europe. In this context he made it clear that he did not consider Germany was any longer entitled to question the present Polish western border.

His refusal to do so until now has been a major source of anxiety to the Soviet Union and Nato allies alike. What was needed, Herr Kohl said, was wider relations between the Community and all of Eastern Europe.

In Bonn, Herr Hans-Dietrich Genscher, the West German Foreign Minister, also thanked M Delors. He discussed the question with M Delors last week when he was told that three possible ways were open to East Germany. It could seek associate membership, full membership or membership through a union with West Germany.

Mr Waldegrave said yesterday that he believed associate membership was the more likely way, although he would not hazard a guess as to when this might happen.

His talks, he said, had centered on the question of Germany's future and he had stressed that the British government position had never changed from supporting self-determination by the people. "The whole effort of the last 40 years has been directed at that," he said.

Moscow admits pact is changing

From Michael Evans, Defence Correspondent, Vienna

One of the Soviet Union's most senior army generals admitted yesterday that the structure of the Warsaw Pact alliance was undergoing radical changes.

General Nikolai Chervov, chief of the arms control directorate of the Soviet general staff, said command and control of the Warsaw Pact armed forces, until now directed from Moscow, would have to change with the times.

The Soviet general was speaking yesterday in a press conference at the 35-nation seminar on military doctrine in Vienna which has highlighted the determination of Eastern European countries to form their own defence strategies.

General Chervov disclosed that the Warsaw Pact's political consultative committee — the supreme policy-making body similar to Nato's North Atlantic Council — would probably "cease to exist".

The committee which has, in the past, consisted of the Communist Party general secretaries of the seven Warsaw Pact countries, decides alliance positions on all defence and arms control issues.

However, General Chervov said events in Eastern Europe had developed so fast, with moves towards pluralist political parties that the Communist Party was no longer able to take the lead. So the existing committee would have to be replaced by another body, he said. "We're still

working on it," he added. General Chervov who is part of the Soviet delegation at the seminar, warned that the Kremlin did not want "to rush artificially" to change the Warsaw Pact's structure.

It was the common interest of all European countries, he said, to maintain a proper security balance. But he expected that eventually the pact would become "a purely political alliance".

Lieutenant General Laszlo Barsits, chief of the Hungarian general staff, has said that his Government is more interested in protecting the interests of his country than those of the Warsaw Pact. He said Budapest's new military doctrine would return to an old Hungarian Army tradition of renaming regiments "after old peasants from years back". The Army, to be deployed in balanced units around the country, would obey Parliament, not the Soviet commander of the Warsaw Pact forces, he said.

● Nuclear deal: General Chervov confirmed yesterday that the Soviet Union was interested in the possibility of retaining an amount of tactical nuclear weapons. This would be in accordance with Nato's doctrine of "minimum deterrence". But he said the Soviet Union was still prepared to eliminate all tactical nuclear weapons in Europe provided there was "a drastic reduction in conventional forces".

Bonn wavers over Euro-fighter role

From Ian Murray, Bonn

West German participation in the troubled European Fighter Aircraft project is becoming less likely because of the reforms sweeping through Eastern Europe.

Development of the £22 billion "defensive fighter" has been complicated by a two-year dispute between London and Bonn over the choice of radar. Now the revolutionary changes in the Warsaw Pact countries are sapping the West German will to continue with the project.

Britain and West Germany each have a 33 per cent share, with Italy taking 21 per cent and Spain the remaining 13 per cent. At least 800 orders for the fighter, scheduled to enter service in 1996, had been expected, making it crucial to the creation of long-term jobs at British Aerospace.

Herr Hans-Dietrich Genscher, the West German Foreign Minister and a leading member of the Free Democrats — the junior partners in the Government — called the project into question yesterday.

Explaining his party's decision earlier this week to drop its support for the project, Herr Genscher said the decision to build the aircraft had been controversial in the first

place and there had always been the option of buying such an aircraft more cheaply elsewhere.

Reforms in Eastern Europe and improved East-West relations had created new circumstances, Herr Genscher said. "The Government itself has not made a final decision on this weapon," he said. "It is a question of development costs and we must see how priorities will be set in the future."

The Free Democrats favour large reductions in the defence budget and see the fighter project as an obvious way of saving money while sending the right signal to reformers in Eastern Europe.

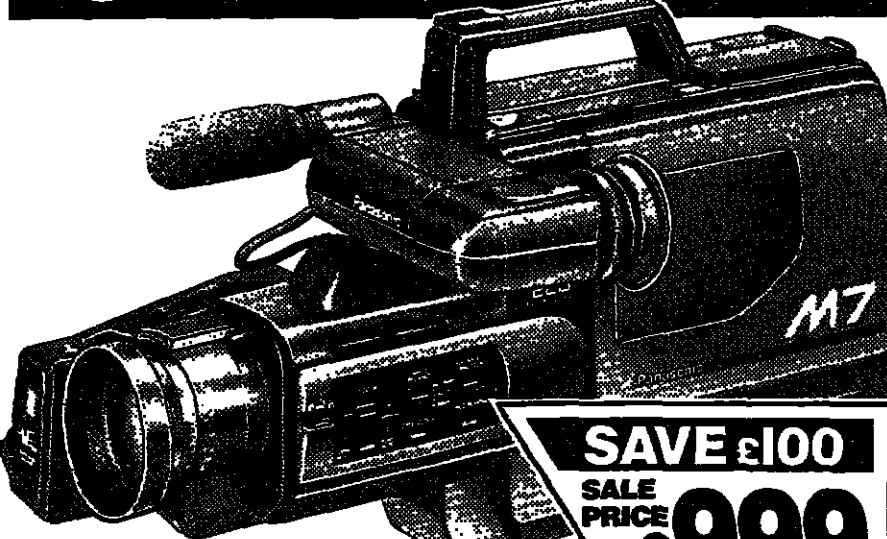
The loss of Free Democrat backing for the project means that most Bundestag members would be against it if it came to a vote. The opposition Social Democrats said 18 months ago that they would not support it, and abandonment of the project is part of their platform for the election in December.

Given the public enthusiasm for helping East Germany recover, the Social Democrats are successfully asking whether European security is better served by building a new generation of fighter aircraft or by constructing new roads to Leipzig.

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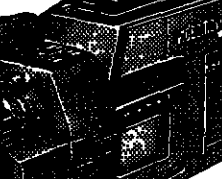
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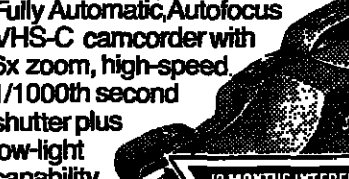
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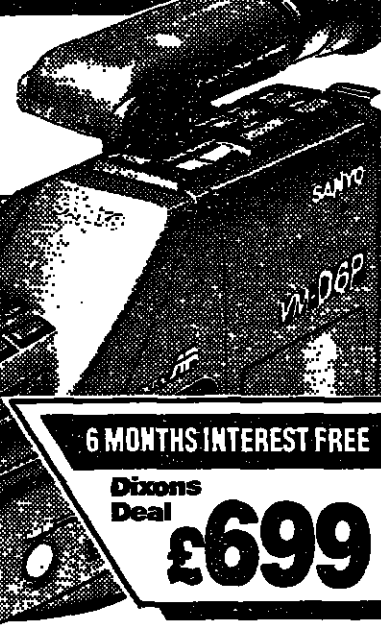
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Conflict in the Kashmir valley

Delhi in crisis as support for independence swells

From Christopher Thomas, Srinagar, Kashmir

In the grubby tea shops and coffee houses of the Kashmir valley, packed with people sheltering from a savage winter, the key topic of conversation is how soon independence will come.

The independence movement patently enjoys mass support, posing a crisis for the new and untested Indian Government as it becomes locked in a dangerously escalating war of words with Pakistan over Kashmir's future.

It is almost impossible to find anyone in the valley who does not back the aims, if not the means, of a bewildering array of militant groups (27 of them at the last count) fighting to wrest Kashmir from what they call "Indian occupation" 43 years after partition.

India is finally paying the price of allowing a succession of inept governments to rule the valley. It takes a hefty bribe even to get a job as a teacher. In the absence of any genuine political outlet, the valley's youth turned to violence just over a year ago, with devastating results.

There is no functioning system of law and order any more, save for a fragile peace imposed by a huge number of

security forces during curfew hours, 5 pm to 5 am, every night.

The state government no longer realistically exists. Dr Farooq Abdullah, the chief minister, remains as only a tenuous and discredited symbol of official authority.

The militants, calling themselves Mujahidin (freedom fighters), are inspired by the Afghan guerrillas. The second-in-command of Hizbi-Islami-Kashmir, one of the three main guerrilla organizations operating in the valley, said in an interview that if the Afghans could drive out a superpower, then the Kashmiris could drive out India.

The unnamed man produced a leaflet that shopkeepers are being told to stick

in their windows. It orders women in Kashmir to observe *purdah*. "Koran is our constitution," it said, "Jihad (holy war) is our way". The leaflet demonstrates beyond doubt the extent to which Islamic fundamentalism is merging with the independence movement.

The man confirmed that his organization was behind a ban on liquor shops, cinemas and video stores, which were all "un-Islamic". It was also responsible for throwing black ink in the faces of unveiled Muslim women.

He also confirmed the existence of guerrilla training camps on the Pakistani side of the line of control dividing Kashmir. He said men from his organization were trained

there, as were fighters from the Jammu and Kashmir Liberation Front and the People's League, the other two main guerrilla groups operating in the valley.

He predicted that the battle with Indian forces would soon become so intense that refugees would start crossing the border from the Indian side, just as Afghans had flocked into Pakistan.

The ferocity of verbal exchanges between Pakistan and India this week has seriously alarmed international observers both in Delhi and Islamabad.

A senior Pakistani official in Delhi gave a warning that repeated Indian accusations that his country was assisting Kashmiri militants were "potentially dangerous."

But it was a statement on Kashmir's right to self-determination that brought the sharpest attack from Delhi, which accused Pakistan of "wanton unwarranted and unacceptable interference in our internal affairs."

It ridiculed Pakistan's denial that it was assisting Kashmiri militants, saying that evidence to the contrary was overwhelming.

Colonel denies massacre accusation



Colonel Guillermo Alfredo Benavides, left, leader of eight Salvadorean military men accused of the massacre of six Jesuit priests last November, at a pre-trial court hearing in San Salvador yesterday. The

judge has 72 hours to rule on whether there is enough evidence to press charges and proceed with a trial. President Cristiani of El Salvador claimed on US television that the soldiers alleged the

colonel ordered them to kill the Jesuits, their housekeeper and her daughter on the Central American University campus. He denies the accusation. A ninth soldier suspect is still at large.

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America opens up TV to the blind

From James Bone, New York

Just as subtitles made television accessible to deaf people 15 years ago, a new technology to be used on national television across America soon could open up the small screen to the blind.

Next Wednesday, 32 public television stations will broadcast the first national programme enhanced by Descriptive Video Service.

The drama, *Sense and Sensibility* in the "American Playhouse" series, will be accompanied by a separate narration for blind people, transmitted through the second audio channel available on most new television sets.

During breaks in the dialogue, the new service will provide explanations to the partially sighted of what is taking place on the screen.

Said Miss Sharon King, director of the project at WGBH-TV station in Boston: "What you will hear is a voice that will come on during pauses in the show."

"It might say, 'John turned slowly with a sad look on his face', or if it is an action show it could say, 'The tall man

pulled a gun on the person next to him'."

WGBH-TV began work on the idea four years ago after hearing of a theatre project for the blind in Washington, run by Dr Margaret Pfanstiel.

In the "Washington Ear" theatre, blind people were provided with a running commentary from someone behind the scenes on what was happening on stage.

The idea was adapted to television and tests have proved it to be successful. Blind people "watch" just as much television as others — between two and six hours.

"We got rave reviews from all the visually impaired people who watched it," said Miss King. "The most often heard comment was, 'I didn't know what I was missing.'"

Users of the new system will not have to buy an expensive decoder to receive the additional signal as it will be available on their television's second audio channel. Those with an older set, without an extra audio channel, will be able to buy a decoding box for as little as \$35 (£21).

WORLD ROUNDUP

Burma ban on opposition chief

Rangoon (Reuters) — Daw Aung San Suu Kyi, the main opposition leader in Burma, has been barred from next May's election, the first in 29 years, diplomatic sources said yesterday. Extra troops were posted in the capital as reports of the decision spread. The sources said the Rangoon district commission of the Elections Commission disqualified the charismatic leader of the National League for Democracy on Tuesday in response to a protest by a rival politician.

Although there was no formal right of appeal under rules established by the ruling Military Council, the democracy league had submitted a letter asking the National Elections Commission to review the case. Daw Aung San Suu Kyi, aged 44, has been under house arrest since July.

Deaths spark aid call

Port Moresby — Australia is considering a big increase in military and economic aid to Papua New Guinea after the most violent attacks yet by rebels on Bougainville Island (Robert Cockburn writes). In several co-ordinated raids, the secessionist rebels yesterday killed eight people, destroyed a prison and a helicopter, burnt government buildings, and cut power lines across their outlying South Pacific island. Visiting senior Australian ministers will now focus their talks on a request by Mr Rabbie Namaliu, Papua New Guinea's Prime Minister, for an additional \$420 million (£9.5 million) to prop up the ailing economy, and military training and equipment for the country's army.

Reprieve for US bases

Athens — Greece agreed yesterday to let the US keep its military bases here for a further six months (Mario Modiano writes). This will give the Greek Government which will emerge from the general elections, now scheduled for April 8, enough time to negotiate a new agreement with the Americans. The last bases agreement which expired on December 22, 1988, gave the US a further 17 months to dismantle and remove all its military installations in Greece. This period ends on May 22, 1990. A law extending the period is to be passed by Parliament on Monday.

Swiss act on Noriega

Berne (Reuters) — Switzerland will release details of bank accounts linked to General Manuel Noriega, the former Panamanian strongman, to help Washington press its drug-trafficking charges, the Justice Ministry said yesterday. Details of accounts in Geneva and Zurich, frozen by Swiss authorities when US troops toppled General Noriega last 10 days. The General is in jail in Miami where US authorities are preparing a case against him for allegedly helping to smuggle drugs from Colombia to the US.

Sisulu urges ANC hawks to accept talks with Pretoria

From Jan Raath, Harare, and Gavin Bell, Johannesburg

The battle between the hawks and the doves of the African National Congress came into the open yesterday when Mr Walter Sisulu, himself jailed for attempting violent insurrection, appealed for talks with Pretoria.

The septuagenarian former ANC secretary-general was rapturously welcomed in Lusaka's Mulungushi Hall by hundreds of young ANC members, many of them from the organization's military wing, *Umkhonto We Sizwe*, symbol of the party hard-line belief that armed struggle is the only way to achieve democracy in South Africa.

Mr Sisulu and seven others, all released from jail in South Africa three months ago and later issued with passports, arrived in Lusaka on Monday for three days of talks with the hierarchy of the party's external leadership in the first substantial bridging of the gap between supporters inside and outside South Africa.

Observers predict a showdown between the military wing, on one hand, and Mr Sisulu and the many who support him, on the other.

"Some people are criticizing us for taking the initiative on this (negotiations), and saying we are going to be in a weak position," he told his audience, adding that some had "failed to understand" the party's policy. Drawing from

the autobiography of Nelson Mandela, the imprisoned ANC leader expected to be released soon, Mr Sisulu said there was "no easy way to freedom" and added that "the political struggle is a most complex affair".

However, he was careful to endorse the concept of a military effort alongside negotiations, urging the young men to continue the armed struggle, despite the significantly softened approach to the ANC of President de Klerk. "We know that if this is not done the regime... will go back," he said.

Talks were crucial, though, because the ANC had "reached a crossroad": "There is no longer any way in which the regime can turn back. We have reached a point where the majority knows where it is going to."

Mr Sisulu also promised that the 1990s "will not end without us seeing freedom". The ANC leadership in exile and the United Democratic Front (UDF), its surrogate in South Africa, are discussing plans to intensify the anti-apartheid defiance campaign to put further pressure on the Government before negotiations.

The ANC national executive committee begins a three-day meeting in Lusaka today and a top-level UDF delegation hopes to confer

with Mandela in the next few weeks. The ANC debate over future strategy has been made more urgent by the recent initiatives of President de Klerk, and the unspoken promise that Nelson Mandela, the jailed ANC leader, will be freed soon.

The date of his release remains the subject of intense and conflicting speculation.

The latest word from a close family friend, a senior figure in the anti-apartheid movement, is that Mandela, aged 71, is unlikely to leave the prison officer's villa assigned to him at Victor Verster jail before March. Diplomats also regard the first two weeks of March as the most likely to see his release.

The prevailing view is that President de Klerk will abolish at least some of the repressive legislation before freeing the veteran ANC leader, with a view to beginning negotiations on constitutional reforms.

The business community in South Africa has been encouraged by statements attributed to Mandela that he favours a free enterprise system. Mr Richard Maponya, a prominent black businessman who met Mandela recently, quoted him as saying that he no longer advocated state control of industry and commerce as an instrument for black liberation.

Mystery oil slick threatens Madeira islands



Workers scooping up crude oil from the only sandy beach on Porto Santo Island after an oil slick spread through Portugal's Atlantic archipelago of Madeira. Experts raced to avert disaster on the holiday islands yesterday (Reuters reports from Funchal). Overnight currents carried small quantities of oil to Madeira Island's northern shore from Porto Santo, 25 miles to the north-east, where the 13-mile slick has built up since Monday. As oil-soaked gulls

and turtles washed up on Porto Santo's southern beach, Senhor Fernando Real, the Environment Minister in Portugal, flew to the scene along with Air Force planes loaded with tonnes of anti-pollutants. "It is a serious situation," said a Madeira official. Environmentalists warned of a catastrophe if the slick reached the nearby Deserted Islands, whose nature reserve is home to a colony of rare sea lions and birds. No is certain where the slick originated. Madeira

naval officials believe that the slick may have come from the Spanish tanker Aragon which leaked 25,000 tonnes of crude oil Madeira two weeks ago. But Senhor Eduardo Cruz, the deputy director of the Portuguese news agency Lusa that it was virtually impossible that the Aragon was to blame. The spill was very thick for oil that had been in a choppy sea so long, he said. Officials have not ruled out that the oil could have drifted from a

huge spill from an Iranian tanker off Morocco's Atlantic coast last month. But they say oil would normally have been broken up during the 400-mile journey to Madeira. Madeira's regional autonomous government was considering seeking the aid of France, Spain, Finland or The Netherlands to battle the slick. Scores of men using bulldozers and buckets have scooped up several tonnes of oil on the island. Officials closed the island's desalination plant after finding oil in it.

Death toll mounts in Somalia's civil war

By Michael Kaipe
Diplomatic Correspondent

The number of people killed in the civil war in Somalia in the past 19 months is estimated at between 50,000 and 60,000 in a report published today.

According to Africa Watch, a US-based human rights monitoring organization, nearly half a million refugees have fled the country, principally to Ethiopia, while another 400,000 have been displaced within Somalia.

It is difficult to overstate the extent of the Somali Government's brutality towards its own people, says Africa Watch. Two decades of rule by President Siad Barre's regime had resulted in human rights violations on an unprecedented scale, which have devastated the country.

For 20 years, strict government controls have prohibited independent political activity and cut off all legal avenues for the expression of dissent. The repressive system is implemented by a uniformed paramilitary organization, the Victory Front, which acts as the regime's watchdog at a neighbourhood level, and a powerful secret police organization, the National Security Service.

The Somali Government has shown a total disregard for the international laws of war, using its air force and artillery fire against the civilian population.

Africa Watch says the war is continuing in the north against the Somali National Movement, a rebel group drawn primarily from the Isak tribal clan. Similar policies are now being pursued in the southern and central Somalia against the Ogaden and Khatve clans in reprisal for their support of two rebel movements established last year, the Somali Patriotic Movement and the United Somali Congress.

Hong Kong and 1997 Economy flaw found in draft law

From Andrew McEwen, Diplomatic Editor, Hong Kong

As China began the final stage of deliberations on Hong Kong's future constitution, it emerged yesterday that British officials are worried about the omission of a key point on the economy.

The current draft of the Basic Law, which will apply from 1997, does not explicitly give the Hong Kong Government control over its own economic affairs.

Such control is merely implied. This contrasts with the Basic Law's clarity on related issues, leaving no doubt that Hong Kong will have control over its own monetary, financial and fiscal matters.

In theory it could mean that Peking would be able to tell Hong Kong how to spend its money. British officials regard the omission as contrary to the 1984 Sino-British Joint Declaration, which set the guidelines for the Basic Law now being formulated.

An important Chinese committee, meeting in Canton, yesterday began what is ex-

pected to be its last session of discussions on the Basic Law. It may complete its work this week and the document will then go to a plenary session of the Basic Law drafting committee next month.

Mr Xiao Weiyun, a Chinese law professor, said amendments could be made at the

Hong Kong - Hong Kong police have classified as murder the death of a Vietnamese centre, where thousands of boat people are held (Jonathan Braide writes). The man died and nine others were injured, one seriously, when 20 masked men stormed the camp's dormitory yesterday.

plenary session and at a meeting of the National People's Congress in March.

However, the possibility that it could go through without the economic provision is worrying the British, who are expected to raise it at the next meeting of the Joint Liaison

Group in April. The group is the principal forum for discussions between Britain and China on the transfer of sovereignty over the colony.

Although the Basic Law is a matter for China, the agreement between the two countries is that it should be consistent with the 1984 Joint Declaration. Britain has a right to raise any inconsistencies with China.

Senior Chinese officials expressed concern recently over huge infrastructure investments by the present Hong Kong Government. Although these are a matter for Hong Kong and Britain, they will not be completed before China takes over. The lack of an economic clause in the Basic Law could allow China to alter the infrastructure programme once it takes over.

Peking is understood to be concerned that Hong Kong will be unable to pay for the later stages of the project and that it will be obliged to help.

The investments are seen by

the British and Hong Kong governments as evidence of confidence in Hong Kong's future economic health.

During the visit this week by Mr Douglas Hurd, the Foreign Secretary, construction gangs were pouring the foundations of a huge new central building to be called Citicorp Tower. The site alone cost HK\$2.7 billion, although it is only 100 yards square.

It will stand next to Hong Kong's current tallest building, the 70-storey Bank of China, built by the Peking Government. It is due to be completed next month after being delayed by a shortage of welders.

Mr Kingsley Sit, a member of the Legislative Council, said yesterday that China should be consulted about Hong Kong's huge public works schemes. He advocated direct dialogue between Peking and Hong Kong's Office of the Members of the Executive and Legislative Councils.

Liberians flee Doe soldiers after bungled coup attempt

By Susan MacDonald

Hundreds of people have fled fighting in north-eastern Liberia amid yet another apparent attempt to overthrow President Samuel Doe of Liberia.

Amnesty International has called on the regime in the West African state to stop summary executions by government troops and to investigate the alleged killing of hundreds of unarmed civilians since the rebellion against President Doe's regime began on Christmas Eve.

The Liberian Red Cross has announced that about 5,000 people are homeless inside Liberia, in addition to the more than 20,000 refugees from the affected Nimba province who have fled to the neighbouring countries of Ivory Coast and Guinea.

Nimba province is under a dusk-to-dawn curfew and has been declared out of bounds to travellers.

A lack of first-hand information means that it is difficult to assess the situation there or to verify the strength

of the infiltration of a rebel force that led to the crackdown by government troops.

Their numbers are estimated at 100 by the Government and 250 by their self-styled leader, Mr Charles Taylor.

The Liberian Government appears to be carrying out a form of scorched earth policy there, resettling some of the remaining villagers - the majority have fled - and

burning houses in an effort to root out the rebel forces. About 20,000 refugees, men, women and children, are now being cared for in the Ivory Coast. They have been streaming across the border for the past three weeks and accuse government troops and rebels alike of atrocities.

President Doe has denied that his troops are responsible for the killings, saying these are being carried out by the rebels.

He has added that the situation is now under control. Mr Taylor, however, says that his men launched a new offensive this week and could soon march on the capital, Monrovia.

Master Sergeant Doe seized power in a bloody coup in 1980 in which President William Tolbert and 13 of his Cabinet were executed.

Since then he has governed this independent West African state, set up by freed American slaves in 1842, withstanding an average official rate of an attempted coup a year.

President Doe: Denies ordering executions

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Demonstrations grow as Israel's crisis deepens

From Richard Owen
Sefed, northern Israel

The air is thick with the smoke of burning tyres and protesters chant slogans against the Israeli Government as they barricade the roads with boulders.

However, these are not Palestinian activists of the *intifada* - rather, Israeli farmers at Moshav Ya'ara, one of the many co-operative farms in the north of the country facing bankruptcy because of the Government's failure to pay promised farm subsidies.

At the town of Hazor Haglilit near by, still more demonstrators chanting "We need bread, we need work" clash with police in protests over the closure of factories

owned by the huge, state-controlled Koor conglomerate. Koor, an arm of the trades union organization, the *Histadrut*, controls much of Israeli industry, but is itself on the verge of bankruptcy.

Now, with the diplomatic peace process stalled, senior figures in Washington have begun to suggest that US aid to Israel should be cut. Israel receives \$3 billion a year in American aid. The suggestion by Senator Robert Dole this week in *The New York Times* that Congress should cease to earmark aid for Israel, Egypt, the Philippines, Turkey and Pakistan, and should cut aid to Israel by 5 per cent, has aroused profound concern.

Israel's economic problems stem partly from the fact that the socialist ethic on which Israel was founded is in serious decline. The Zionist idealism which lay behind the setting up of *kibbutzes* and *moshavim* - collective and co-operative farms - in the pioneering days of the Jewish state has dwindled.

The growing number of oriental or Sephardic Jews and immigrants from the Soviet bloc either have no interest in the European origins of Zionist socialism or are actively opposed to it.

In response, Mr Shimon Peres, the Labour leader in the coalition, who has seen the power base of his once dominant Labour Party gradually crumble, has embarked on a programme of privatization. He has hived off Koor subsid-

ies for private sale. None of this has mollified the hard-pressed settlements in the north, in Upper Galilee and in the Golan Heights, on Israel's borders with Lebanon and Syria, many of which

Cairo (Reuters) - Egypt has invited Mr Shimon Peres, Israel's Labour party leader and Vice Prime Minister, to Cairo next week to press for Israeli participation in a dialogue with Palestinians, diplomats said yesterday.

combine farming with industry. Both are proving unprofitable, and, in spite of the strategic importance of the settlements, the Government has so far refused to pay the *moshavim* the £2 million which

the farmers claim they are owed in subsidies. Most *moshavim* and *kibbutzim* have gone on strike, and several farmers are said to have committed suicide because of the crisis. Water supplies to the settlements have been cut off because of unpaid bills.

In response, the Government is rushing a Bill through the Knesset to approve emergency aid to Upper Galilee. Settlers there say the real problem is that in the long-term, subsidized enterprises are no longer economically viable. Mr Avraham Katz-Or, the Agriculture Minister, this week told angry farmers that they must learn to "diversify".

It was announced this week that the inflation rate for 1989 was just over 20 per cent.

Burdened by high defence spending, Israel is running an annual trade deficit of some £3 billion a year.

According to Mr Peres, inflationary pressures are the result of having to cope with a huge wave of immigration from the Soviet Union, Eastern Europe and Ethiopia. Others point to the cost of maintaining Israeli troops in the West Bank and Gaza to control the *intifada*.

The angry farmers of the north yesterday gave the Government until Monday to come up with funds, threatening to take "drastic action" otherwise. In Hatzor, in Upper Galilee, thousands of protesters clashed with police after a decision by Koor to pay off hundreds of steel workers.

Briton gets to grips with Japanese big time

From Joe Joseph
Tokyo

Nathan Strange, a not especially chunky 18-year-old from Herne Bay, has a straightforward reason for being Britain's first *sumo* wrestler and perhaps the only man of Kent to wear his hair in a greased topknot for purely professional reasons - "because I love it".

The only less likely character in the grand *sumo* tournament now nearing its climax in Tokyo is Marcello Salomon Imachi, a 22-year-old Argentinian who has just become the first Jewish *sumo* wrestler.

"It's like the Army," says Strange. "It's very disciplined and obviously there are some difficulties living with 16 other people in one big *tatami*-matted room. But I really like Tokyo and I love *sumo*. It's neat."

Although Strange has actually lost weight since arriving last summer to join a *sumo* stable - largely because apprentices do so much running around for the elders that they sweat most of their fat away - he will end up far from neat, he will end up fat.

Salvador Atisano, a Samoan-American from Hawaii who fights under the name of Konishiki and who

recently became only the second foreigner in the 2,000-year history of *sumo* to win a tournament, is the heaviest wrestler on record. Just 26 years old, he weighs 355 lb and looks in need of urgent medical treatment. Nathan Strange tips the scales at just 165 lb.

Foreigners who have lived in Tokyo become used to the sight of these incredible bulks rubbing their bellies against each other in a small ring and

● The only less likely character is an Argentinian who is the first Jewish *sumo* wrestler ●

have to remind themselves that it is not normal for young men to force feed themselves to a point where only a Bedford truck or another *sumo* wrestler can knock them off balance.

They train rigorously, and there are muscles under the fat. They run and jump and manage to swim surprisingly sleekly.

Even expatriates get hooked to the television when a tournament is on

and enjoy bouts which, after five minutes of ceremonial stamping, can pass in the blink of an eye as one wrestler forces the other to the floor or out of the ring. The £100 ringside seats are as difficult to obtain as an invitation to the royal box at Covent Garden, but twice as exclusive.

The British have taken to *sumo* as they did to darts and other odd spectator sports. British addresses are now common on the bottom of letters to Japanese *sumo* magazines. Strange has attracted a clutch of fans, mostly young Japanese and British girls, who write to wish him success.

Strange was among the many people in Britain who caught the bug watching *sumo* on Channel Four. He then practised *sumo* in south London with his English judo instructor. Now that he is in Tokyo, he concedes it is not an easy or glamorous life.

"You do everything from cooking to cleaning the loos. If you're bottom rank you clean the toilets, including the giant size toilet we've just had installed. I'm on the second rank, so I'm spared toilet duty now. We wake up at six and start training at 6.30. Training is a lot harder than I thought it would be. Cooking begins at 9 am."

Despite a diet of heavy stews made

of fish, chicken, soyabean curd and vegetables, and mountains of bulk-building rice, Strange's weight has shrunk from 19 st 5 lb to 16 st 8 lb due to the physical demands of his duties.

Strange's weight loss has not marred his performance so far. He is up - three wins, two losses - in the current tournament, with two bouts to go. If he wins he might rise another rank, although he will not become rich soon. His board is met by the stable, his wage is basically pocket money.

But there is money at the top. *Sumo*'s current darling, one of the most successful wrestlers in the history of the sport and the favourite of most women spectators because he is the only top wrestler who looks vaguely muscular, is Chiyonofuji, known as "The Wolf".

Since reaching the rank of Grand Champion in 1981, Chiyonofuji, aged 34, has pocketed more than 800 million yen (£3.3 million) from salary, bonuses, prize money, and appearance fees. At a good tournament he can pick up 200 million yen from generous fans in the crowd. Encouragingly for Strange, Chiyonofuji has made it to the top even though he weighs in at a skimpy 19 st 10 lb.



Nathan Strange from Herne Bay working out at the sumo stable in Tokyo. He concedes it is far from a glamorous life.

Drug lords offer peace deal

Bogota (Reuters) - The Extraditables, Colombia's main drug cartel, said yesterday they would end bombings and assassinations of public figures and journalists to prove they wanted peace with the Government.

The statement, read over radio stations in Medellin, centre of the drug trade, said they would also halt cocaine exports and turn over their arms and drug laboratories "the moment that we are given constitutional and legal guarantees".

Police therapy

Stockholm - Mr Tommy Lindstrom, Sweden's national police chief said the detectives investigating the death of Olof Palme, the former Prime Minister, had to have psychotherapy to cope with the decision last year to free Mr Christer Pettersson, who was convicted of the murder.

Media attack

Beirut (Reuters) - General Michel Aoun, the Christian military leader, has ordered the prosecution of media which defied his ban on identifying Mr Elias Hrawi as President.

Custody death

Johannesburg (Reuters) - A black South African man, aged 19, suspected of arson attacks, died on Tuesday during interrogation police.

Press protest

Dhaka - At least 500 journalists in Bangladesh marched on Parliament yesterday demanding the repeal of anti-press laws.

Mayor killed

Marseilles (AFP) - The mayor of one of the city's districts was shot dead in his car by two unknown men.

January 17 1990

PARLIAMENT

Labour policy on Hong Kong 'is irresponsible'

The Government's commitment to give British passports to 50,000 Hong Kong families was reaffirmed by Mr Douglas Hurd, the Foreign Secretary, when he reported to MPs on his visit to the colony.

He was criticized from the Labour benches over the slow progress of democracy for Hong Kong and from the Conservative benches for the immigration to Britain that the passport plan would bring. He accused Labour of having a policy that was obscure and irresponsible.

Mr Hurd said that everyone he had spoken to, politicians and the business community, had welcomed the passport plan made just before Christmas that 50,000 families would be given British passports, although they had hoped for more. He had assured them that the Government was fully committed to the proposal.

Referring to the Vietnamese boat people, he said that Hong Kong had paid a high price for its policy of first asylum, but the colony could not be expected to take the same number of boat people this year — more than 30,000 — that it received last year.

"There is nowhere for those boat people to go. The policy of repatriation is therefore the right one, and I hope this may soon be endorsed by the international community."

On the agreement with China, he said that no one in Hong Kong seriously disputed the validity of the joint declaration as the basis for Hong Kong's future after 1997. Although confidence was undermined last June, the Chinese Government had reaffirmed its commitment to the joint declaration.

It had to be made to work and an important element in that was the extent and pace of democratization in Hong Kong before and after 1997. Discussions on that issue were continuing and he would not go into detail today.

"Our goal is to set in place a system, starting with elections to the Legislative Council in 1991, which will satisfy Hong Kong's aspirations for democracy and which will endure after 1997."

"I hope, after further discussion, to be able to announce a decision within the next few weeks."

Mr Kaufman said that the Government had indicated that it recognized the need for an increase in the number of members to be elected to the Legislative Council, but it had done nothing or had left the field

free for decisions by Peking. They had proposed only 18 directly elected members by 1997, the year of the handover.

In Hong Kong, Mr Hurd indicated that there would be 20 by next year. Today he had given no information of any kind and that was not good enough.

The draft Bill of Rights had been thrown out by the Executive Council in Hong Kong as inadequate. Was the Government proceeding with it?

What international discussions were taking place on the boat people? Had the Vietnamese Government indicated whether it was ready to receive any further boat people?

What action was the Government taking to give direct economic aid to Vietnam? This was the most sensible way of giving the Vietnamese confidence to stay in their own country.

The Amnesty International report alleged ill treatment of boat people and that one had died from indiscriminate kicking and use of batons. There should be an independent inquiry.

The deputy secretary general of the basic law drafting committee was reported to have said that under that basic law top officials in Hong Kong's post-1997 government would not have the right to live abroad and that Hong Kong residents would not be allowed to seek British consular protection while in the territory after its return to China.

"Is this not a torpedo right through the Government's ill conceived plans to award UK passports to 50,000 so-called key people?"

Everyone who got a passport would inevitably seek to come to Britain before 1997, "making nonsense of the Government's claim that the purpose of their plan is to anchor those people to Hong Kong."

Mr Hurd said that it would be a mistake to go into a decision which made impossible long-term progress on democracy if that progress was attainable.

"The drafting of the Bill of Rights is a matter for the Hong Kong Government. The Chinese Government has made no representations to us about this matter."

While it was right to encourage voluntary return of Vietnamese who were not refugees, that had not proved sufficient so repatriation was also necessary.

The Amnesty report needed to be considered. Several of the incidents mentioned had been investigated by the Government of Hong Kong and the criticisms had not been accepted.

Under Chinese law, full citizens of another country were not dual citizens and it followed in the case of UK citizens that they were entitled to British consular protection throughout the world.

Hong Kong Chinese who were not full UK citizens were in a different position. As regards public servants, the joint declaration made clear that they were entitled to British consular protection throughout the world.

Mr David Howell (Guildford, C), chairman of the Select Committee on Foreign Affairs, said that Mr Hurd had not been helped by Mr Kaufman (Conservative cheer). Was the Opposition now in favour of giving passports to everyone in Hong Kong?

Mr Hurd said that sometimes Mr Kaufman cooed sympathy, sometimes he said there was nothing to be done. There was a strong impression from Mr Kaufman's foggy phrases that Labour had no interest whatsoever in the sensible future of Hong Kong.

Mr Peter Shore (Bethnal Green and Stepney, Lab) suggested greater priority to satisfying the demand for democracy in Hong Kong above appeasing Peking.

Mr George Walden (Buckingham, C) said that about the underlying issue to the right of abode for the 50,000 families would mean that the election of a Labour Government would precipitate a crisis in Hong Kong. Was not Labour's position the most cynical and opportunistic policy ever heard from the Opposition?

Mr Hurd Labour Party policy is obscure as to about 90 per cent and that part which is not obscure is irresponsible.

Mr Bernie Grant (Tottenham, Lab) asked what assurances had been extracted from the Chinese on the security of British citizens after 1997, particularly in view of the Chinese Government statements about peaceful demonstrations in Hong Kong.

Mr Hurd agreed that the Chinese Government was concerned about some expressions of free opinion in Hong Kong.

Ronald Butt, page 12

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Mrs Edwina Currie, the former junior health minister, who suffers from asthma, helping to launch the National Asthma Campaign in Covent Garden

House of Lords

Call for Nato to be replaced

A call for a search for a new security system to replace Nato was made by Lord Callaghan of Cardiff, former Prime Minister, during a debate in the Lords on the prospect of German reunification.

Outlining the ramifications for Europe of reunification, he said that Nato's doctrine of flexible response could become "inoperable".

"For the present, Nato must remain the shield for the West with the essential presence of the United States. But logic compels the conclusion that the political and other changes just around the corner require us to seek a better security system for Europe as a whole that will reflect the new realities."

The Conference on Security and Co-operation in Europe, the Helsinki process, was an acceptable forum for the search.

Opening the debate, Lord Callaghan (Lab) said that the ending of any division of Germany would set off a chain reaction that would radically affect the other nations of Europe.

The extraordinary events of recent months had already overturned the political structure in Europe. Last year would go down in history with the revolutions of 1789 and 1848. Communism was discredited and the postwar Europe, assured by Potsdam and Yalta, was in the process of dying.

In political terms, the process of moulding the two Germanies had already begun and would soon be in full swing. The two countries had agreed 11 joint commissions and their leaders were to have another meeting in a fortnight's time. The momentum for reunification in some form was irresistible.

"It is imperative that the two Germanies unequivocally and formally renounce any hope of recovering their lost territories in the East and accept without reservation the existing border between East Germany and Poland."

The implications for the Soviet Union were vast. That empire had never made any headway about regarding East Germany and Poland as a buffer against attack from the West.

It was not conceivable that a total unified Germany would be either neutral or unaligned. If she were, she would be likely at some time to feel hemmed in and Europe had had previous experience of where that sentiment could lead.

As a leading member of Nato, West Germany had long stated its clear objective of removing battlefield and short-range nuclear weapons from the front line between East and West Germany.

"How much stronger that process will become if it comes from a confederal Germany."

Such pressure would be irresistible, and with their removal, would go much of the remaining credibility of the Nato doctrine of flexible response.

Truly, it would be imperable. Having discussed the idea of a peace treaty with one or two others, he believed that the time had come for negotiation to begin between the wartime allies and the two Germanies.

It is beyond question that Europe faces both a challenge and an opportunity of historic proportions as great as any in the past.

They would have to work hard to prevent the rise of narrow and destructive nationalism or centrifugal autonomies "from dividing and weakening us or from diverting us from the very important new problems that will lie ahead for our Continent in the twenty-first century."

But, with vision and vigour, the leaders of Europe had a real opportunity — something which occurred only once in a lifetime — to establish a framework of understanding and agreement that could ensure security and peaceful progress within democratic society for the people of Europe.

Lord Bonham-Carter (Lib)

Communism is discredited and postwar Europe, assured by Potsdam and Yalta, is in the process of dying

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Delay on Fraser 'an insult'

It was an insult to open government and justice not to publish the inspectors' report into the House of Fraser, Mr Teddy Taylor (Southend East, C) said at question time. It was five years since the alleged irregularities and fraud had taken place and 18 months since the then Secretary of State (Lord Young of Graffham) had received the report.

Mr Nicholas Ridley, Secretary of State for Trade and Industry, said that he would publish the report as soon as possible consistent with the even-handed administration of justice.

Grant plan for organic farms

Grant aid for farmers wishing to convert from conventional to organic production is to be proposed in a consultation document, which will be issued shortly, Mr David Curry, Parliamentary Secretary, Ministry of Agriculture, said in a Commons written reply.

In another reply, he said that the United Kingdom Register of Organic Food Standards had reached an advanced stage in discussions on registration with the organic sector bodies through which most registrations were expected to be effected.

Ulster Orders approved

The Electricity Supply Amendment Order, allowing the Northern Ireland Electricity Board to spend money to prepare for privatization, and the Health and Personal Social Services (Special Agencies) (Northern Ireland) Order, to provide for special health agencies in the province, were agreed by the Lords on Tuesday.

Aid reduced

Expenditure on regional assistance in England had been reduced in real terms from £594 million (at 1989 prices) in 1979 to £326.6 million last year, it was disclosed at question time. Giving the figures, Mr Douglas Hogg, Minister for Industry, said that at 1979 prices the regional assistance for that year was £297.6 million.

Parliament today

Commons (2.30): Question Time; Treasury: Minister of Finance; Motion on government financial support for English local authorities. Lords (2.30): Food Safety Bill, committee, second day.

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Parliament today

Steel golden share will not be used

The Government will not use its golden share in British Steel to intervene in its investment decisions, Mr Nicholas Ridley, Secretary of State for Trade and Industry, said at question time.

Pressure on Mr Ridley to intervene in British Steel's investment decisions in Scotland started when Mrs Margaret Ewing (Moray, SNP) said that the golden share had been brought into existence to protect vital national interests, which for Scotland meant the preservation of the Scottish steel industry.

British Steel was starving Ravenscraig and associated works of investment without which any paper guarantee of their future was worse than useless. Would Mr Ridley make representations to British Steel to make sure that investment was forthcoming?

Mr Ridley said that the purpose of the golden share in British Steel had been to protect the industry, which had been badly damaged by public ownership, from unwelcome takeover bids for a limited period. "That situation has not arisen, where it would be proper to use that golden share, but it is not available for the purpose which she suggests."

"It was made clear at the time and I make it clear again that the Government has no intention of using it for any purpose other than that for which it was first placed there."

Later, Mr Ridley said that the chairman of British Steel had recently reaffirmed that a guarantee on the future of Scottish plants still stood. "That is the position. There is no way I can intervene and it would be quite wrong for me to seek to intervene."

Mr Spencer Batiste (Elmet, C) said that the whole concept of golden shares was alien to the stock market.

Mr Ridley said that he had come to agree with Mr Batiste even more strongly since Labour's policy review had said that the golden share existed in the principle of separating voting rights for shares.

advisory leaflet was being prepared. It would describe new procedures agreed with British Coal for dealing with subsidence claims. It might be possible to get a system for settling subsidence disputes without legislation.

Many claims had already been met by British Coal. The trends were encouraging and the number of new claims continued to fall. In 1988-89, British Coal received 9,600 new claims, about 2,000 fewer than the previous year. It settled about 10,000 claims a year at a cost of nearly £50 million.

The total number of cases outstanding fell by about 5,000 to a little over 26,000. That compared with a backlog of 37,000 in 1986-87 and 52,000 in 1983-84.

The Government had brought forward a review of the disputes procedure. The review was now under way and he hoped a

simpler, quicker and cheaper way for claimants to resolve disputes with British Coal would be the outcome.

The Bill to reorganize the finances of British Coal and Mr Wakeham said: It would be neither practical nor desirable to tack subsidence provisions on to the present short, primarily financial, Bill.

An Opposition new clause to ensure that the deficit that the Government is to finance should include sums to cover all outstanding claims for compensation for subsidence damage was rejected by 186 votes to 175 — Government majority, 71.

Another Opposition amendment to tighten the planning controls over private open-cast mining was rejected by 229 votes to 161 — Government majority, 68.

The Bill was given an unopposed third reading.

Car production ready for expansion

The best news for the future of the car manufacturing industry in this country was that annual production was set to expand from 1.3 million cars to 2 million during the decade, Mr John Redwood, Under Secretary of State for Corporate Affairs, said during question time in the Commons.

In 1988, 1,357,000 cars had been imported into the United Kingdom and 261,000 exported.

Mr Joe Ashton (Bassetlaw, Lab) described the 1988 figures as appalling. They were 27 per cent worse than in 1979.

When was the Government going to get tough, like the governments of France, Italy and the United States, against Japanese imports? Why was the Government giving subsidies to Nissan and Toyota in Derby and helping them to steal the skilled labour force from Rolls-Royce?

Mr Redwood said that Labour had presided over a huge rise in import penetration in the 1970s from 27.9 per cent to 56.3 per cent. Under the Conservative Government, penetration had remained steady at around 56 per cent to 57 per cent.

Inward investment by Japanese car companies was making a big contribution to the growth of production in the United Kingdom. The Government's economic policies were working

and new investment from Japan was to be welcomed.

Mr John Townsend (Bridlington, C) asked to what extent the decline of the British car industry had resulted from the actions of trade unions in refusing to accept new industrial practices, from their restrictive practices and strikes.

And to what extent had the Japanese decided to invest here because there was a process of change that he believed in private enterprise and the open market?

Mr Redwood said that the trade unions had been aided and abetted in their destructive policies of the 1970s by the wrong policies of the Labour Government, which had given the wrong signals to the car industry.

The 1990s would be better with the firm base of sound industrial relations, which had proved attractive to inward investors.

Sir David Steel (Tweeddale, Etrick and Lauderdale, Lib Dem) said that the problem facing consumers was that brand names had disappeared. There was no way of knowing if a car had been manufactured in this country, Spain, Germany or Italy. Could British manufacturers not put appropriate stickers in cars?

Mr Redwood said that he thought it was Liberal Democrat policy to welcome the increase of the European

market. Various goods assembled here had long come from components made elsewhere.

Mr Anthony Beaumont-Dark (Birmingham, Selby, C) said that if we went on as we were, with Ford workers demanding 14 per cent pay rises as against the 3 per cent accepted in Germany with greater productivity, there would be an increase in cars imported into the United Kingdom.

Mr Redwood said that it was for Ford management and workers to decide how best to get the right level of pay in relation to output and productivity. That was the way to protect and expand jobs and give customers a good deal.

Mr Douglas Henderson (Newcastle upon Tyne North, Lab) asked how the minister squared his comments about the supposed recovery of the British car industry with the trade deficit in automotive products of £6.5 billion in 11 months.

Was not one of the main causes the production of cars "stuffed" with components from abroad?

Mr Redwood said that it was for vehicle companies to make the best commercial decisions. That was the way to get secure jobs and the best package for consumers.

Mr Graham Riddick (Colne Valley, C) said that the only contribution seen from the opposition Labour Party had been the way in which £400 million of planned investment in Dundee had been stopped by their paymasters in the trade unions.

Inward investment by the Japanese had meant more jobs for the industry and huge increases in exports would follow. The threat now would come from Eastern European manufacturers.

Mr Redwood said that trade unions had a role to play in helping rather than hindering inward investment.

The attitude of Labour in government had been winning and dining — with winning split with an "h" — together with the issuing of lunch-time directives to car companies. They had tried that and it had been a disaster.

Mackay's courts Bill victory

The first clause of the Courts and Legal Services Bill, giving the Lord Chancellor power to transfer cases between the High Court and the county court, was agreed in the Lords on Tuesday night, although some peers expressed misgivings about it.

Lord Rippon of Hexham (C) said that the clause represented the surrender of parliamentary control over matters which should be the subject of primary legislation.

"With the Executive dominating the Commons, an independent judiciary and an independent legal profession are the only defences of our rather frail constitutional rights and I firmly believe that the duties and responsibilities of the higher judiciary for the administration of the courts should not be whittled away by any Act of Parliament of this kind."

Consultation with the Lord Chief Justice and other senior judges was not sufficient safeguard against the abuse of power by the Executive which increasingly dominated Parliament.

Lord Simon of Glaisdale (Ind) said that he agreed with the content and intention of this clause.

However, he was disturbed by its first words: "The Lord Chancellor may by Order make provision". That was sym-



Lord Rippon: Surrender of parliamentary control.

tomatic of the highly authoritarian spirit which animated this Bill and Government.

Lord Mischon, Opposition spokesman on legal affairs, appealed to peers to approach the clause in a spirit of common sense. The obvious way to deal with detailed matters such as the transference of cases between courts was by Order.

Lord Hallham of St Marylebone, a former Lord Chancellor,

said that Part One of the Bill should have been a free-standing Bill. If that had been done, this muddle would not have arisen. There would have been no need for secondary legislation, nor confused drafting.

Lord Mackay of Clashfern, Lord Chancellor, invited peers to set out by amendment the principles which should be adopted for the transfer of cases. He had set out the principle which he thought should apply by saying that judicial review should be exclusive to the High Court. That was the decision of any future Lord Chancellor on these matters would be subject to such judicial review.

He had tried to specify the criteria which he believed should apply to the transfer of cases. The purpose of the clause, within the constitutional safeguard of judicial review, was to enable flexible arrangements to be made as to where cases could be heard.

The allocation would be based on the civil justice review. The powers were carefully circumscribed.

Earlier, Lord Mischon had moved an amendment to provide that the Lord Chancellor should make no Order to transfer work to the county courts

until he was satisfied that there were sufficient resources to offer a reasonable level of service.

That would include provision of facilities for hearing cases lasting more than one day so that they could be heard on subsequent, consecutive days.

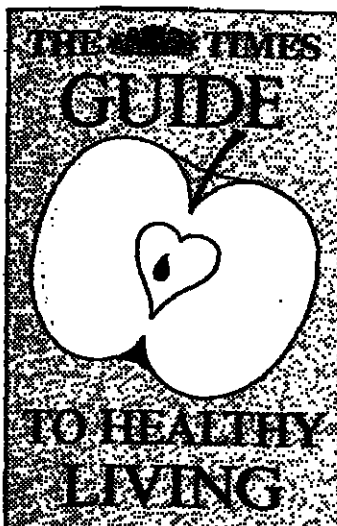
Lord Rawlinson of Ewell (C) agreed that the debate would be a change if the resources were not made available.

Lord Mackay of Clashfern said that there had been difficulties in running the county courts. One of the problems was the heavy load of routine work that staff had to deal with. He was now arranging for part of this to be done by other means, releasing the full-time equivalent of 350 staff.

There were now 50 centres throughout the country available to hear continuing trials on consecutive days and a further 25 were in course of preparation. He was also in a position to present commitments and another 100 for training and recruitment

SPECTRUM 1

Is your environment friendly?

Part 4:
Fiends of the Earth

You are what you eat, drink, and breathe. But is it doing you harm?
Ann Kent reports

In just a few years, public indifference about the environment has been replaced with public alarm. Our surroundings are now mentioned so often, and in such a negative way, that it seems as if even the simple act of being can damage your health.

How much does where you live affect your health? The first problem in trying to assess just how far we have polluted our environment, and how this has affected our health, lies with the lack of hard scientific information. Timothy O'Riordan, professor of environmental sciences at the University of East Anglia, in Norwich, says: "Once the EC's Environmental Protection Agency is set up and begins its monitoring activities, we should have a better idea about what is going on."

O'Riordan points out that our drinking water and air are far purer than those endured by our Victorian ancestors. Housing and sanitation have improved beyond all recognition and, he says, the chance of dying of a pollution-induced disease is lower than it has ever been. "But this is no reason for complacency," he says.

Judith Gubbay, of *Which?*, the Consumer's Association magazine, thinks that in some parts of the country we would definitely benefit from not drinking tap water. "Some water supplies do not come up to EC regulations, and some of the substances involved have a known health risk.

But how big that risk is, no one knows," she says.

Gubbay was one of the authors of a *Which?* investigation into water pollution. Its report, published last February, and based on information supplied by the Department of the Environment, showed that water authorities in the Midlands, East Anglia, Tyneside and parts of Scotland failed to measure up to EC standards. The pollutants were aluminium, manganese, iron, lead and nitrate. However, this information is now out of date, and the department has not revealed which water authorities are still failing to come up to scratch.

Gubbay advises anyone who is concerned to write to their water authority and ask about the purity of the supply and whether it conforms to EC regulations. People who are really worried could consider water filters.

Friends of the Earth has focused on air pollution as a serious environmental health hazard. Last August, it published its report on "Air Pollution and Health".

"Last year the World Health Organization guidelines for ozone, nitrogen dioxide and carbon monoxide levels were breached several times in Britain," says Fiona Weir of FoE.

The Government announced last year that it would make ozone pollution data available to the Press a day after any "smog" incident. The people who are at risk during such episodes, accord-

ing to Weir, are pregnant women and young children, as well as people suffering from asthma, bronchitis and heart disease.

She estimates the number of those at risk to be one in five of the population, but admits that it is "almost impossible" to prove the harm scientifically because statistics on how many asthma attacks occur during a pollution episode are not collected.

The risk of air pollution should be reduced after 1992, when the fitting of catalytic converters will be compulsory on all new cars. But FoE is concerned that by the time the new regulations are enforced, six million new and, for the most part, unconverted cars will have been sold.

In statistical terms there are striking variations in the health enjoyed by people in different regions around the country. According to the Office of Population Censuses and Surveys, the overall number of deaths from diseases is highest among men in Scotland.

Deaths from heart disease are highest in Scotland and Northern Ireland. A woman in Scotland runs almost twice the risk of succumbing to a heart attack as her counterpart in East Anglia, which has the lowest rate in the UK.

The North-South divide also applies to victims of cancer. The

highest mortality rates for death by cancer in men occur in the north of England and Scotland. Men in the south-west of England have the lowest cancer mortality rate. Among women, those in the north of England have the highest cancer death rate.

Infant mortality rates, a good indicator of health and health care, are highest in Yorkshire and Humberside. According to Professor Walter Holland, president of the Faculty of Public Health Medicine of the Royal College of Physicians, there are a number of reasons for these regional differences. "Coronary heart disease, for example, is commoner in the west and north-west than in the east and south-east, and is commoner in Scotland and Wales than in England. One major reason is the wide variation in how much people smoke. Diet and obesity are another factor, and another reason is possibly associated with the water supply. Studies have shown that people who live in soft water areas have a higher mortality rate than people who live in hard water areas."

The Imperial Cancer Research Fund has carried out a detailed study of the suggested links between cancer and proximity to nuclear installations.

According to Dr Sarah Darby, a medical statistician with the ICRF who carried out the study: "There is absolutely no evidence that cancers in general are more common near Britain's 15

principal nuclear installations."

But, while there is no general increase in cancer rates, childhood leukaemia is about 20 per cent more common round nuclear installations. However, Darby and her colleagues checked cancer rates at sites where nuclear installations had been seriously considered but never built, and found that leukaemia rates were about 20 per cent higher around these sites as well. "It may be something to do with rural conditions or the geography of the areas," she says.

The self-pollution caused by tobacco inhalation is a greater threat to health. Smoking causes 90 per cent of lung cancers, and is also an important cause of heart disease, strokes, mouth and throat cancers and is strongly linked with cervical cancer, facial wrinkling, osteoporosis, stomach ulcers and leukaemia.

"Passive" smokers may also be at risk. Dr Martin Jarvis of the ICRF's health behaviour unit estimates that there is a 30 per cent greater risk of lung cancer among non-smokers who live with smokers.

"We also think passively inhaling a colleague's smoke at work has an effect," he says. "Research has shown that people who are near smokers inhale between 0.7 per cent and 1 per cent of their cigarettes. They would be at the same risk of disease as smokers, but at a much lower level."

Additional research by Sara Driver

BRITAIN'S TOP 10 POLLUTANTS

Dr David Ball of the Environmental Risk Assessment Unit at the University of East Anglia says there is no consensus as to which pollutants pose the greatest dangers to our health.

"There are pollutants that other people perceive as a risk which I do not — such as nitrates in water, PCBs, dioxins from incinerators and low-level nuclear waste," says Ball, who compiled our list. "On the other hand, I have included atmospheric gases, because we are overloading the atmosphere; and although radon is not a pollutant as such, human activity has led to it becoming concentrated and dangerous to health. I have also included lead because this will be with us for a long time."

1 Atmospheric greenhouse and trace gases from fuel combustion, evaporation of chemicals, and agriculture. The gases, including carbon dioxide and methane, are leading to global climate changes with unknown consequences.

2 Halogenated solvents from toxic and non-toxic waste disposal. If ground water is contaminated by these and other industrial chemicals it can give rise to cancer risks.

3 Antibiotics from medical and veterinary usage. Inappropriate use has led to development of bacterial strains which can no longer be effectively treated by antibiotics. Wound infections and septicaemia are increasing.

4 Radon from naturally occurring radioactive gas, which can become concentrated in buildings. Average indoor exposure presents a lifetime risk of lung cancer.

5 Noise and vibration from traffic and the modern urban environment has a psychological impact.

6 Nitrogen dioxide mainly from oxidation of nitric oxide which, in turn, is produced by motor vehicles, combustion plants and, indoors, by unvented combustion appliances such as gas cookers. The effects on individuals is likely to be small, although a large part of the population is exposed. Causes lung damage, especially for asthmatics and bronchitis.

7 Lead from ingestion of contaminated dust, paint, food and water. Car emissions are declining due to unleaded petrol. Affects the central nervous system and possibly blood pressure; thought to reduce intelligence and cause abnormal behaviour. Pre-school children are at greatest risk.

8 Environmental tobacco smoke from involuntary inhalation. Passive smoking gives rise to some risk of lung cancer in non-smokers.

9 Pathogenic organisms discharged into the rivers and sea from sewage. Contains viruses which cause enteric infections.

10 Photochemical oxidants from atmospheric chemical reactions involving nitrogen oxide and hydrocarbons emitted from various fuel combustion sources, especially vehicles, industrial processes and solvent evaporation. Evidence suggests a doubling of background ozone concentration over the past century, with a risk of chest and respiratory tract problems.

Sara Driver



Jacqueline Glass and children: "I take vitamins C, E and beta carotene, and ginseng when I need a boost"

VITAMINS AND NO BEEF IN HEALTH-CONSCIOUS EAST ANGLIA

Jacqueline Glass, aged 35, lives in the village of Holbrook in East Anglia — said to be the healthiest region in the UK. She moved there from London three years ago, but is not sure that her present home is any healthier than her last one. "Farming in East Anglia is particularly intensive, and the results of that are unhealthy as far as I am concerned. Because of pollution people couldn't swim in the river or play water sports on the reservoir last summer."

Glass keeps chickens and tries to eat home-grown, chemical-free produce whenever possible. She prefers to drink mineral water rather than risk tap water, which has been shown in the past to have high levels of nitrates. "We haven't had beef for months because of worries about mad cow disease, and the thought of scrapie is putting me off lamb."

Her two young children have orange juice and cod liver oil every morning, and fluoride tablets for their teeth. "I take vitamins C, E and beta carotene, and ginseng when I feel I need a boost. It's difficult to say if these things are making us healthier — we don't know how healthy we would have been if we didn't bother." A large proportion of the housekeeping money goes on fruit, although they don't buy apples or apple juice because of fears about sprays.

She and Julian Fookes, her partner, have cut down from daily drinking to an occasional drink at weekends, and neither of them smokes. "I find that I have so much more energy the next day if I don't drink. Even a couple of glasses of wine seem to make a difference. I have just started meditating for half an hour before I go to bed. I enjoy just sitting there doing something for myself."



Nigel Webster: "I have cut down my drinking now to a pint or two a night, but that's just part of maturing"

GLOOM LIFTING IN THE HEART-DISEASE CAPITAL, GLASGOW

Nigel Webster, aged 27, has no intention of moving out of Glasgow, even if it is the unhealthiest part of Britain and the heart disease capital of the world. "It doesn't take much imagination to see why Glasgow is so unhealthy," he says. "You just have to stand in the middle of one of the most deprived estates. People living there don't give a damn about their health, they're more concerned with finding the money to feed the kids, getting the damp walls sorted out, and leaving the neighbourhood. Food, cigarettes and drink are what make their lives worthwhile."

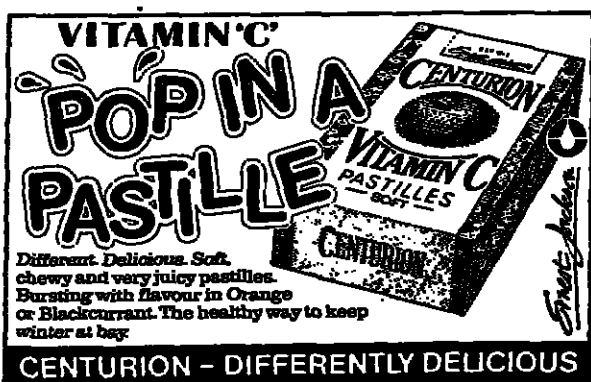
However, Webster, co-owner of a sports equipment shop, says he feels his own health has improved since he was in his teens. "I smoked 20 cigarettes a day and drank several pints most nights when I was at college, and I did no exercise. I tried five-a-side football

and had to give up because it made me feel so ill. "Five years ago I started to play badminton to improve my fitness, and three years ago I realized I would never play well unless I stopped smoking, so I did. I have cut down my drinking to a pint or two a night, but that didn't involve a conscious effort. It is part of maturing. You know how you are going to feel next day if you over-indulge."

"I drink a lot of fruit juice, and I think my diet is healthy enough. I would like to get involved with hill-walking, because from Glasgow you have access to some of the most beautiful countryside you can imagine. I think Glasgow is very aware of its poor health record, and things are getting better in terms of sports amenities and the raising of awareness. We have lost a lot of our heavy industry, and I imagine the air is cleaner than many places in the Midlands."

TOMORROW

Does marriage damage your health? The case for and against our most crucial relationship



CENTURION - DIFFERENTLY DELICIOUS

Growing up healthily

Wordsworth did little for parents' peace of mind by pointing out that the child is father of the man. Many parents worry that their example may be misleading children; that their encouragement, well-meant as it is, may be interpreted by the child as pressure to succeed; or that their choice of diet may establish eating habits which will lead their children to the coronary care unit and an early grave.

Nor have parents been reassured by the tendency of sociologists and psychologists to discount heredity in the development of adult personalities,

and even physique, and to ascribe greater importance to the environment, particularly that of early childhood. There is no doubt that personality is in part inherited, but the extent to which it develops may well be related to background. Children brought up in households where pleasure, grief or anger are suppressed are unlikely to be demonstrative adults, and are more predisposed to stress-related disease.

Encouragement is all-important to children and should not be withheld. If children feel they are not loved for themselves but for their achievements, the foundations are laid for the Type A adult

personality, with its unremitting urge to compete, its aggression, its impatience, and doubled risk of a coronary thrombosis. As the adult stress-prone personality lacks self-esteem, parents must endeavour to develop a sense of self-worth in children, who must be shown that parental love is unconditional.

As with mental fitness, so with physical fitness. Quite apart from establishing a pattern of daily exercise, encouraging children to take exercise by teaching them to swim and cycle will help them form friendships.

There can be no excuse, however, for trying to coach an average performer into becoming a world star; there will be tears at the time and recriminations for decades afterwards. Nor should young children be encouraged to take part in adult sports — marathons, for instance — where damage can be done to the growing points of the long bones.

Eating habits, too, can be established in childhood. The child weaned on to chips is unlikely to become health-food conscious in later life. Children's diet holds a twofold danger. At one extreme, the harried parent may be tempted to feed a family on quickly prepared or pre-cooked convenience foods; these will often have a high fat content, low on fibre, minerals and vitamins. At the other end of the spectrum, the over-caring parent in the muesli belt may select a diet so high in fibre and low in fat that the child's absorption of minerals and vitamins may be restricted.

It has been suggested recently that some children from these homes are actually having their growth stunted by these diets — becoming, as one nutritionist terms them, "muesli dwarfs".

A good mixed diet of lean meat, fish, fresh fruit and vegetables will not only provide the necessary proteins, calories, minerals and vitamins for healthy growth, but is likely to lead to healthy eating habits in later life.

Dr Thomas Stuttford

HERE'S AN ASTHMATIC CHILD FIGHTING FOR BREATH



Asthma is a killer. Every year over 2,000 people die as they gasp for breath. More than 2 million people suffer. Many of them are children and it can be very frightening for them.

But we can help. Especially now that the Asthma Research Council has joined forces with the Asthma Society to form a bigger, stronger charity. It's called the National Asthma Campaign.

We're determined to find a cure for asthma and stop one in ten of our children suffering. But we desperately need your help. So please fill in the coupon and help a child to breathe.

HERE'S HOW YOU CAN HELP

I'd like to join the National Asthma Campaign (£3) ☐ E.T.18

I'd like to make a donation to research: £10 ☐ £20 ☐ £50 ☐ Other £

Or charge my Visa/Access/Amex a/c No.

C. Signature Date

Mr/Mrs/Ms/Other

Address

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TIMES DIARY

ALAN HAMILTON

For the first time since King Michael was forced out at gunpoint by the communists in 1948, an immediate member of the Romanian royal family returns to Bucharest today to see for himself the destruction wrought by the Ceausescu years. Princess Margareta, Michael's 40-year-old eldest daughter — and strongest candidate for heir to the throne should it ever be restored — plans to travel round the country with her younger sister, Princess Sophie, to evaluate what needs to be done to restore some of its wrecked architectural heritage. It will be the first time either woman has ever seen Romania; both were born in the West after their father's enforced departure. Part of their plan, I suspect, is to deflect any monarchical lightning from Prince Paul, who flew in last week on a somewhat farcical mercy mission. Paul, son of King Michael's half-brother, is regarded by the real royals as an interloper on the royal scene. Such internecine rivalry, I fear, will not improve anyone's chances of recovering the throne.

Talking of statues, as Master Levin is doing just east of here, how many of Stalin are left standing in Eastern Europe? Demolishing hated symbols of the old regime and smashing them to bits has become a major industry. But the citizens of the Czechoslovak town of Zlín are being altogether more clever, indeed capitalist, about their 15 ft sandstone monument to Uncle Joe, recently removed from the town centre by popular demand. They are offering it for sale to collectors, believing it to be one of the last of its kind still intact. The Civil Forum committee implies me to bring this to your attention, and suggests bids start at \$30,000. It tells me: "This money will be used for social purposes, especially for equipment of local hospitals. The new owner will have not only a unique curiosity but he will support the struggle of Czech people for renewal of their democracy." Serious bidders may contact me for further details.

● An Iranian visiting Azerbaijan recently was awoken in his Baku hotel room at 3am by the manageress hearing vodka and wishing to show solidarity with the Islamic revolution. Two good reasons there for the holy men of Tehran to keep their distance.

Sting, the British rock star, has been in Brazil adding his voice to the protests against an estimated 45,000 illegal gold prospectors who have invaded the land of the Yanomami Indians in the Amazon basin. Representing his own Rainforest Foundation, Sting had an audience this week with the Brazilian president, Jose Sarney, who announced that 18,000 of the intruders had been persuaded to move off without a shot being fired. I don't, however, know which parts of his repertoire Sting performed to frighten them away.

BARRY FANTONI



"Most interesting. You're suffering from a phantom prison sentence"

Two final winners in my Christmas contest to provide an item suitable for this column ten years hence. A bottle of The Glenlivet single malt whisky to Peter Tabernaer of Bristol for: "The Archbishop of Canterbury, speaking at the recent AGM synod of Church of England plc, said she was disappointed by the failure of the flotation of Durham Cathedral, but a refinancing deal with Cardinal Noriega, President of the Vatican Bank, had recently been successfully concluded. Following the Mass walk-out earlier this year, the white collar union representing vicars and curates had agreed a pay deal in line with inflation, currently 125%."

According to Peter Fleming of St Helens for: "Lord Branson of Bratislava got himself into hot water yesterday with his latest hot-air balloon, which is a full-scale model of Canterbury Cathedral (by arrangement with Dr Madge Tapscott, the Archbishop of Canterbury, of course). Richard hovered too low over the M1 Horseshay near Milton Keynes, frightening 24 Clydesdales which were pulling a Euro-Juggernaut. All three southbound brideways were blocked, causing long delays. Queues stretched as far back as the Noscab Halt service area at Watford Gap. Branson later apologized to travellers by helicopter."

My thanks to all who took part.

If you should happen by a cinema showing *Mystic Pizza*, buy a ticket and see this engaging film. I was particularly taken by a minor actor called The Fireside Gourmet: a bearded phoney with a modulated English accent who has a weekly TV spot in which he assesses restaurants. There were two aspects of his performance that disturbed me: first he played the part as if he were Donald Sinden, and Donald Sinden is alive and well and would almost certainly have played it better; secondly I was on my way home before I realized that what had bothered me is that the language of gastro-criticism is not for speaking. I opened a food guide at random.

"Not only the epitome of outstanding cuisine but a seminal establishment whence celebrated chefs have sallied forth to delight

The recent discussion of pay awards has a depressingly familiar ring. Ford is said to be setting a "going rate" of over 10 per cent which will be followed by others, not only in manufacturing. "Pay explosion," scream the headlines. Ministers urge restraint and warn of the consequences of irresponsibility.

For the best part of 30 years successive governments sought to cajole employers towards a set figure for annual pay rises regardless of whether they had been earned or not. The result was a low-pay, low-productivity economy slipping inexorably down the league table of international competitiveness. The norm became an entitlement.

Only since the trading sector broke free of the going-rate mentality have we started to regain international competitiveness. Employers are constantly balancing the need to pay no more — and no less — than is required to attract and keep the necessary skills and commitment against the need to remain cost-competitive.

With the price of manufactured goods in the shops rising by around 4 per cent per year, it is clear that such a balance can be achieved only with improved performance. Since 1980, manu-

facturing productivity in Britain has risen by some 60 per cent overall, though with widely varying performances. The CBI's Pay Databank shows that employers expect to achieve further substantial improvements, on average of about 6 per cent, this year.

CBI data show that during the first half of the 1980s at least two-thirds of all firms linked pay to productivity, and the trend has continued since. Employment has risen to record levels, and, according to a recent consumer survey, there has been a perceived improvement in the quality of British-made goods. Export revenues (excluding oil) have been particularly buoyant; Britain's share of world manufactured exports is now rising, probably for the first time this century. It is not generally recognized that we export more, per head of population, than Japan.

All this shows what can be achieved when employers are free to build pay structures that

suit their circumstances, and to pursue wage settlements that are financed by real improvements in performance. And at least one manufacturer in three is still achieving productivity improvements that outstrip the corresponding pay settlements.

To say this is not to underestimate the difficulties of maintaining progress towards an internationally competitive manufacturing base, which holds the key to redressing our balance of payments deficit and curbing inflation. With poorer prospects for growth in the domestic market, manufacturers are having to redouble their export efforts to cover investment costs under a high interest rate regime. Since mid-1988, when interest rates took off, employers have also been grappling with inflationary pressures on pay.

Despite the improvement, the link between pay and performance is still not strong enough to ensure that in all cases unit labour costs fall year by year, as

they must in a competitive world. If they do not, the result will be fewer jobs. That is why the CBI emphasizes that pay rises must always be linked to improved productivity. There can be only one going rate. It is for unit labour costs. And our international competitors have ensured that it must be negative.

Any manufacturer who fails to understand that pay increases need to be financed by improved performance is not likely to survive for long in the new decade. But more of the nation's wealth creators will actively flourish if four conditions are met.

Pay must reflect performance in the public and private services as well as in manufacturing. It is noteworthy that throughout the ambulance dispute there has been almost no discussion of improving the performance of the ambulance services in terms of patient care, vehicle and staff utilization, cost per patient-mile and the like. The problem may

well not be that ambulance staff are paid too little; they may simply not be paid what they ought to be worth.

We must avoid those inflationary own-goals which result in headline inflation of about 8 per cent while the price of goods in the shops is rising only half as fast. Unnecessary increases in local business rates, electricity and water charges — not to mention borrowing costs — fuel wage demands (through their impact on the Retail Price Index) as well as adding to cost pressures directly. Such own-goals cannot be afforded under any circumstances, particularly the present.

The momentum of investment — in skills and innovation as well as in the infrastructure and new production capacity — must be maintained. The underlying cause of our inflationary tendencies is generally agreed: the lack of savings and investment, and excessive consumption on the back of a speculative

boom in housing. While South Korea has a personal savings ratio of more than 30 per cent of GDP (and has seen its GDP increase from \$80 to \$5,000 a head in a generation) we are struggling to achieve 5 per cent. In the run-up to 1992, investment in all its aspects must be our priority. Personal tax cuts will have to wait, however delightful they would be.

Pay must be related so that, directly to performance, as performance improves (and as performance improves only then), employees receive only then, better rewards. Profit-related pay better rewards. Profit-related pay has an important role to play. So has employee share ownership: no substitute has yet been developed for the owner's eye in any business.

Treating the symptoms rather than the underlying causes of any condition can be dangerous — for the patient, if not the doctor. At present pay rises are not creating unemployment. Nor are they boosting the rate of inflation. Nor are they hitting investment. But they will surely do all these things in 1990 if the concept of a going rate for pay, regardless of performance, again takes hold. We forget where we came from at our peril.

The author is Director-General of the CBI.

John Banham on the perils of paying something for nothing

No return to a going rate

Mockery that helped topple an empire

It must be splendid to be a citizen of Czechoslovakia today, despite the difficulties, hardships and dangers that have inevitably accompanied the Eastern Revolution. But one form of rejoicing must particularly warm the heart of every free spirit there: the glorious work of pulling down and smashing the statues and portraits of the tyrants who set their persecutors as viceroys over them. But I hope somebody — President Havel will surely see the point — is at this moment commissioning a bust of The Good Soldier Svejk. If you do not know who the Good Soldier Svejk is (you may know him as Schweik), you have a jolly time coming; if you do know, you are having a jolly time already.

Jaroslav Hasek was literally as well as metaphorically a Bohemian; but it was the metaphorical side which led to his countless adventures in his various roles as drunkard, fraud, rioter, anarchist, practical joker, blackmailer, journalist, pauper, lunatic, would-be suicide, soldier, malingering deserter, linguist, Bolshevik and genius. The book he wrote chronicled the adventures in the First World War of his magnificently unheroic hero, Svejk (much of Svejk's character and escapades are based on Hasek's own life), and the work is deeply, passionately, wittily and devastatingly subversive. Subversive, that is, of order, religion, authority, respectability and propriety: I would not be surprised to learn that it was banned throughout the years of Czechoslovakia's *via crucis*.

If it wasn't, it should have been: Svejk sums up his political philosophy by saying "An empire as idiotic as this one doesn't deserve to exist." He meant, of course, the Austro-Hungarian, but it was even more apt to the Soviet hegemony, and the rivalry with which the book is filled should have put the Soviet sappers on their guard.

This flawed but immortal masterpiece was translated into English during the Second World War, which was when I, as a schoolboy, discovered and revelled in it. It figured, by a bizarre trick of fate, in the *Lady Chatterley* trial. That wonderful booby, Mervyn Griffith-Jones, suggested that Penguin could have published *Chatterley* without the rude bits (what he called "the bouts"). Allen Lane gently pointed out that Penguin's rule was never to expurgate or cut the books they published, but Griffith-Jones said that *Schweik* (the German spelling, used in the Penguin version) had been abridged, whereupon Lane, even more gently, explained that government regulations controlling paper (very scarce in the war) had made it impossible to publish it in its entirety. Mind you, if Griffith-Jones had actually read it, he would have been tempted to sling it into the dock alongside Lawrence, for there are some of his "bouts" in it, to say nothing of the most appalling blasphemy. In the early Seventies, a retired



Bernard Levin suggests a tangible memorial to the idle, lying, cheating anarchist whose deeds lit Czechoslovakia's years of darkness

diplomat, Sir Cecil Parrott, set himself out of trouble — or, more exactly, for getting out of trouble — is to assume the guise of an imbecile, though in truth he is stuffed with cunning, the cunning of the shrewd and wily poor, which has through the centuries defeated any number of bureaucrats, policemen, employers, officers and dictators. The book, indeed, starts at exactly that point: Svejk is arrested for speaking disrespectfully about the emperor, and in no time has persuaded the psychiatrists that he is an idiot, fit for the lunatic asylum rather than prison. His description of his time there gives an immediate flavour of the book.

It was always unlikely that *Svejk* (the Czech spelling, which Parrott preferred) will ever be forgotten, but with the monument that Parrott built him, it is quite certain that he will not. Hasek was fortunate in having an artist friend, Josef Lada who (after Hasek's death) drew the pictures with which the book is adorned, and it is impossible for anyone who has read it, and seen Lada's drawings, ever to imagine Svejk looking like anything else. (Alas, Parrott died in 1984, or we should surely have had still more *Svejkiana*.)

Svejk's technique for keeping out of trouble — or, more exactly, for getting out of trouble — is to assume the guise of an imbecile, though in truth he is stuffed with cunning, the cunning of the shrewd and wily poor, which has through the centuries defeated any number of bureaucrats, policemen, employers, officers and dictators. The book, indeed, starts at exactly that point: Svejk is arrested for speaking disrespectfully about the emperor, and in no time has persuaded the psychiatrists that he is an idiot, fit for the lunatic asylum rather than prison. His description of his time there gives an immediate flavour of the book.

I really don't know why those loonies get so angry when they're kept there. You can crawl naked on the floor, howl like a jackal, rage and bite... A chap can pass himself off as God Almighty, the Virgin Mary, the Pope, the King of England, His Imperial Majesty or St Wenceslas... One chap even pretended to be St Cyril and St Methodius just to get a double portion... The wildest of them all was a gentleman who pretended to be the

sixteenth volume of *Otto's Encyclopedia* and asked everybody to open him and find the entry: "Cardboard box standing machine"... It really was like living in paradise there. You could kick up a row, fight, sing, cry, beat, yell, jump, say your prayers, turn somersaults, crawl on all fours, hop, run about, dance, skip, squat, all day on your haunches and climb up the wall.

The Rabelais comparison is inescapable, but Hasek's imagination was more realistic: the whole book consists of the appalling scrapes Svejk gets into, and gets others into as well. One of my favourites is the drunken chaplain, Otto Katz, who is given Svejk as a batman, later to gamble him away at cards. The very mildest item in Katz's catalogue of defecabilities is his attempt to administer extreme unction, which ends with the chaplain telling Svejk to polish his boots with the holy liquid and Svejk using it to oil the lock.

Not only is *The Good Soldier Svejk* a picaresque novel so vividly funny as to be quite unforgettable. It is something more, much more: an anarchical yell of triumph, proclaiming yet another victory over all those who have power and abuse it. That victory, as we all know, is hard won; you cannot really laugh an empire into disintegration, though you can make its servants wish they had never been born. That is what Hasek and Svejk between them do, and I cannot but believe that in the long night of oppression, the Czechoslovaks treasured the book as a gospel. It is hardly a gospel that a bishop could approve of, though it does insist that the meek shall inherit the earth. The bishop would be, however, when it comes to the method, the meek are to use in order to gain their inheritance. Skiving, lying, thieving, cheating — all's fair for the underdog, who has no hope other than the hope he can make for himself, by worming his way into ordered society and releasing a bag of termites, confident that in time they can be left to bring down the structure.

Why do you suppose that humour, in oppressive societies, is invariably watched with suspicion and put down without compunction? Ask the termites; if you can laugh at the wicked, their fate is sealed. Jaroslav Hasek and his great creation laughed at every kind of obedience, order, structure, tradition, rank, respect, deference and law; they laughed because what they were laughing at deserved to be pulled down and burnt to ashes. In the annals of Czechoslovakia the good soldier Svejk should have a hallowed form and place for him than Wenceslas Square? Forward, the sculptors of Bohemia!

Sir Cecil Parrott's translation of *Svejk* is published by Heinemann, The Bad Bohemian by Bodley Head.

Ronald Butt

Keep cool on Hong Kong

Why do people who vaunt their liberal-mindedness assume that any politician who has misgivings when a significant episode of immigration is in prospect must be trying to use racial populism to further his own political ends? Why cannot the matter be argued straight?

The question struck me again on reading the terms in which Julian Critchley, in *The Observer* last Sunday, discussed Norman Tebbit's position on the Government's plan to give British citizenship to 225,000 selected people from Hong Kong. Critchley, who sits on a large Tory majority as MP for Aldershot, luxuriates in the political independence of a backbencher who knows that if he ever had a baton in his knapsack he lost it long ago while exercising his caustic wit against Mrs Thatcher. Asking the question "What's Norm up to?" he answered it by suggesting that Hong Kong could be Tebbit's chance of a lifetime. ("What price the Yellow Peril?") What working-class Tebbit have latched on to immigration and race, the one issue giving him "a separate identity", to further his ambition to succeed Mrs Thatcher? Many, according to Critchley, think so. He ends by saying that Tebbit "will not be forgiven if he stirs up the mud on the race issue".

Yet if Tebbit does indeed represent a constituency in the country, what is wrong with that provided he genuinely agrees with it? All good politics are grounded on consent and should have regard to what the majority of the people want. It never pays to trick them, which is precisely what has happened over immigration for the past 30 years. If the people had been told straight the size and consequences of the immigration that was in store it is inconceivable they would have accepted it. Instead the prospective figures were repeatedly underestimated and the likely consequences camouflaged.

Suppose the consequences could have been seen in a crystal ball: that an essentially alien enclave with little point of contact with the native culture would be statistically dominant in large urban areas; that there would be many schools where the British cultural and linguistic elements were in a minority; that sometimes this would create educational disadvantage for those whose home language was English; that teachers who drew attention to this would be sacked, as were some who were accused of "colonialism" because they taught English instead of "multi-culturalism"...

Suppose it could have been foreseen that Salman Rushdie would still be in hiding after a year because of a death sentence from a religious leader which some Muslims in this country seem unwilling to condemn in a forthright way. For some "liberals" who have opposed every practical attempt to limit immigration, as well as standing for total permissiveness in "free

speech", the Rushdie affair has produced intellectual torture.

In her article on Azerbaijan on this page yesterday, Tamara Dragadze declared that although some call the conflict there ethnic, "it is really a territorial dispute". But all ethnic disputes are ultimately about territory, and if territory were not an issue in some sense there would be no dispute. It is natural for human beings to want to live in a broadly homogeneous culture on a shared territory. (Small minorities are more easily tolerated than large.)

All this teaches that it is wrong to cast accusations of racism at those who are wary about immigration. The question of the 50,000 Hong Kong citizens selected for their special skills who, given their families, are to be given British citizenship before 1997 so that they have the confidence to stay in Hong Kong needs cool debate. The key question is whether large immigration is in prospect is whether the newcomers will accept assimilation in the majority culture. The people from Hong Kong may well be more easily absorbed than other groups. But that still leaves open the question of numbers, and also whether confidence will actually be inspired by the present plan.

It is easy to see why the Government has reached a compromise of allowing British citizenship to key professional people now, in the hope that it will give them the confidence not to leave. But the difficulties in the plan, which is still to be worked out, are very clear. The full 50,000 will not be designated at once; it will be done in tranches (say 10,000 at a time) in each of which there will be various numbers of accountants, solicitors and so on. But as more and more of the 50,000 are named, will those not selected remain confident that they will be in the final batches? Will the whole business not look invidious as between one person and another of equal qualifications?

It would be more sensible to wait and see what happens after 1997. But the Government says it cannot do so since Labour's refusal to underwrite pledges has robbed Hong Kong people of confidence in pledges that are deferred. Labour should clarify its unacceptable "all or none" stance. Its claim that admitting Hong Kong professionals would affront those with Indian sub-continent relations who are waiting to come here only shows how wrong it was to allow a flood of economic migrants to make it harder to take any genuine political refugees.

Nothing that is suggested now is very relevant to what would happen after 1997. That is the ultimate question and it would be a world problem. In the meantime, when the Government's Bill is ready, it must be discussed honestly and on the basis of its consequences, without any dangers and false accusations of racism.

At last I scoop the fat-pack



CLEMENT FREUD

page of *The Sunday Sport*, and when it comes to catering establishments it is a minor miracle to find anywhere that has not already been praised, condemned, noticed to have lost its

first fine flourish, written off, revived, sunk and sought change of usage to become an estate agent's office. Each of these stages is chronicled by a different journalist, for there is no mileage in the *Daily Sun*'s man agreeing with anything penned by the scribe on *Freak Out*.

Yet it remains the ambition of every food writer to discover; to be the first to find a place of quality and see his appreciation framed in the restaurant's window, his name on the display advertisements. Well, I have discovered a place. A place that no one else has found, whose name has never appeared in print. It is a haven of culinary

originality and excellence — missed by the entire profession, of which I was once a member.

The food is exciting, the atmosphere relaxed (it is so often the other way round), and an immaculate starter of beautiful goat's cheese on a bed of fresh spinach, rocket and chervil in an inspired dressing costs £2.95. Spinach Tortellini dressed with shivers of smoked salmon served in a cream and lemon sauce costs £2.95 also, as does wonderfully fresh grilled tuna fish on a bed of haricot beans spiked with red onion and olive oil. The same price gets you as perfect a *tarte de citron* with caramelized orange and Cointreau as you will find in

the metropolis. Each dish comes in a closed straw basket perched on other closed straw baskets — the sort of container in which you would expect to find Chinese dim-sum. Olive bread is hot and freshly baked and costs £1. House wine is £6.50 and Beck's beer comes in tankards that have rested in the deep freeze.

How is it, I hear readers ask, that you found this amazing establishment of which no one else has made mention? I have to admit, with customary modesty, that I have a nose for these things. Also I might have been lucky: the place opened on Monday, which is a boon to a man who writes his day. It's called Tall Order, and the SW6 telephone 371 9673; open Saturday, and for weekend luncheons.



1 Pennington Street, London E1 9XN Telephone: 01-782 5000

PATERNAL RESPONSIBILITY

The steady rise in the incidence of marital breakdown and a change in social and sexual mores have combined to make single-parenthood, once very uncommon, almost the rule in certain parts of Britain. It is usually the father who is absent; and increasingly, absent fathers are failing to meet their moral and legal obligations to support the family for which they are still responsible.

The Prime Minister, in the course of a general and welcome statement on the importance of defending family life last night, signalled her intention to raise the pressure on errant fathers to meet these obligations. For some time voices have been heard in the Conservative Party calling for a new approach to the question. It is an issue on which the Government cannot help being involved, as it is to statutory agencies funded by the taxpayer that single parents have to look, once an absent father defaults on his financial responsibilities. If personal morality has failed — and it is difficult to think of a more blatant moral failure than that of a father who refuses to support his own child — the State has the right to look to coercion instead.

It is appalling that only about a quarter of absent fathers now contribute to the maintenance of their children. There are reasons for thinking that the present arrangement for the provision of social security benefit for single mothers does actually encourage some fathers to try to avoid their responsibilities. They know that if they fail, the State will provide instead. It is not that difficult, and the tactics of evasion and procrastination are easily picked up. The present means for collecting maintenance payments have proved seriously inadequate, therefore, and may in some cases actually increase poverty among lone mothers with young children.

The difficulty of shaping Government policy is that it would not be acceptable, nor more than marginally effective, to try to discourage fathers from avoiding their financial duty by penalizing their children, that is to say by cutting benefit in the hope that their fathers

would make good the shortfall. Such children are deprived enough already, and Mrs Thatcher's expression of heartfelt concern for them last night was at least as much that of a mother and grandmother as of a Prime Minister. To that extent the Government is in a cleft stick, and knows it.

If the need for a system of benefit support for single-parent families is sacrosanct, however, the system for collecting and enforcing maintenance payments from the absent fathers themselves is not. The present method is cumbersome, inefficient and increasingly ineffective. It dates from the time when the problem was far less widespread, and social conventions were different. The ultimate weapon, of collecting maintenance through the attachment of earnings by means of a court order, has shown itself to be too easily defeated.

At present the law treats maintenance as a civil debt, as if the only parties with an interest were the parents and the children. In fact, because the State has to step in when a parent fails, it too has a direct and major interest, and the law should recognize it by treating maintenance, at least once there is default in payment, as a debt owed to the State, in other words like a fine or statutory compensation payable after a criminal conviction. In that way the State would be able to recover with the one hand at least some of what it was paying out with the other.

An approach similar to that is already working successfully in Australia. Whether it would be possible to combine it with the income tax system is an issue likely to be studied further by a special inquiry set up by the Secretary of State for Social Services, Mr Tony Newton. But that is a detail: what is important to note, pending the completion of that study, is that the Government has got the principles right. It must be brought home to the absent fathers themselves that the support of their children and, where appropriate, the children's mother, is not an option but a primary duty.

YESTERDAY'S HAND

"It is as if a changing world had created openings for those driven by vanity and for would-be statesmen seeking to play yesterday's hand." M Jacques Delors excelled himself before the European Parliament yesterday. His targets were, all too predictably, the British Prime Minister and those in West Germany who, "alarmed by developments on the Continent, are being tempted to play a more national card."

As a former socialist finance minister who now has ambitions to succeed President Mitterrand, M Delors is perhaps not best qualified to take others to task for their lack of modesty or their hackneyed ideas. Self-importance is not, however, invariably a sign of insignificance. M Delors is, after all, President of the European Commission, and he had a serious point to make about the constitutional mechanism of the Community. He wants his Commission to be transformed into the executive of "the future federation", led by a president with "genuine power to influence the choice" of the commissioners. According to M Delors, events in Central Europe must on no account be allowed to impinge upon the Community's central goal: political union of the present 12 member states.

The notion of turning the Commission into the executive of a far more powerful Strasbourg legislature is not, of course, a new one; it is, translated into the language of Montesquieu, roughly what Mrs Thatcher meant by the "European super-state". Since the controversy occasioned by her Bruges speech, M Delors has had ample time to present a detailed case for the transfer of sovereign powers to Brussels and Strasbourg.

Yesterday he had a golden opportunity to do so in a very long address before his future legislators. It contained not a single concrete proposal for the transfer of specific powers from the Council of Ministers or the national

parliaments, still less any justification of such a transfer. M Delors merely trotted out his pet principle of "subsidiarity" — the idea that no task should be carried out by central authority if it can be better accomplished by a more localized one. The important question of whether the application of the principle should fall to the Community or to the national parliaments he left unanswered.

His speech will confirm many in their doubts about whether those who are at present entrusted with redesigning the Community are of the same calibre as its first great architects. It is one thing to frame windy declarations which rely heavily on possibly specious analogies between the division of powers at national level and the relationship between the institutions of a supranational organization. It is another to demonstrate wisdom and foresight in providing for the uncertain future of nations whose horizons are now incomparably wider than they were a year ago.

Apart from their vagueness, the greatest single objection to the constitutional amendments proposed by M Delors is the air of unreality which continues to suffuse the European Parliament — "loyal as it is", as he himself put it, "to the Spinelli philosophy." It is mysterious that the Strasbourg Assembly should allow the charge to stick that it is loyal to the ideas, now patently overtaken by events, of the late Italian communist.

The Parliament of Westminster, like those of all West European countries, would angrily disown any imputation of a corporate "philosophy" as narrowly defined as this. The European Parliament, if it is to deserve its imposing title, must represent the full spectrum of opinion across the Community. It should not be afraid to subject the President of the Commission to the cross-examination which he will have to expect if his dreams are ever realized.

SAILORS BEWARE

Military chiefs of staff at their seminar in Vienna should brace themselves for a Soviet attempt to salvage the issue of maritime arms control. It was sunk by President Bush last month at his summit with President Gorbachev off Malta. Next time he may find it more difficult to dispatch.

Nato's reliance on seapower has been total. It has thus been in the interests of the West to preserve its naval superiority at all costs — and just as clearly in Russia's interests to contain it. These perceptions have been reflected by arms control contacts during the last 20 years, including the Stockholm conference on confidence-building measures and the Conventional Forces in Europe talks in Vienna. At every point the Russians have demanded (with little success) that maritime forces be fully covered by the treaty.

To introduce naval disarmament into the CFE negotiations would certainly be a mistake. It would raise such a range of complex issues that movement in other directions would be stalled. But Norway, Turkey and Iceland are among allied countries now said to be interested in beginning a naval dialogue. Last week, moreover, no less a figure than Admiral William Crowe, chairman of the US joint chiefs of staff until three months ago, seemed to agree with them.

Ironically, Nato's dependence on its navies should grow as a result of CFE. A reduction of US forces on the Continent will make it seem more necessary than ever that they could cross the Atlantic safely in a crisis. Nato admirals have indeed been looking forward to a kind of golden age for Western fleets. Cuts agreed in tanks and aircraft should leave navies with a bigger share of defence budgets, and the bigger share of defence budgets, and the bigger share of the threat in Europe might redirect interest towards outside-Nato operations. This implies a need for ocean-going

vessels, but that could prove to be wishful thinking.

The argument for entering structured East-West negotiations over navies is that savings forced upon Nato by politicians could be balanced against reductions in the Soviet Union. If the Royal Navy should find itself with fewer ships to defend the Atlantic sear lanes for example, then it makes sense to negotiate a cut in the number of Soviet submarines which threaten them.

The Russian negotiating position is not a strong one. Not only is Mr Gorbachev under self-imposed pressure to divert funds from military to civil investment, but the Soviet Navy will shortly face block obsolescence because of its sudden expansion in the 1970s. To maintain its present strength, let alone increase it, it will have to find more funds not less.

Naval cuts are inevitably still some way ahead. They would take a long time to negotiate even if talks could be started tomorrow. The problems of verification alone are huge. For Nato at this stage to risk severing its lifeline, moreover, would be rash.

There is scope, however, to explore a range of confidence-building measures which might prepare the way for a rational reappraisal of the balance. Such measures might include notification of manoeuvres and a mutual exchange of data on equipment. These could lead to savings in planning and deployment and should be negotiable without too much loss of sleep.

At the same time naval chiefs in Washington and in London should start considering not just the size but the shape and character of their fleets. Both the balance between submarines and surface escorts and the number of landing ships and aircraft carriers will need re-examining in the changing circumstances.

Poll tax burden on the parish

From Sir Michael Bunbury
Sir, In the plans for implementing the community charge, the plight of certain parish councils appears to have been overlooked.

Rendlesham is a small parish in Suffolk. It is dominated in every way by the United States Air Force base at Bentwaters. Associated with the military facilities are over 300 houses leased by USAF servicemen. That other part of Rendlesham not directly adjacent to the airbase consists of 46 houses — and indeed some of these are occupied by USAF personnel.

Under the rating system, the parish council has been entitled to levy a penny rate on the military facilities and the 300-plus houses occupied by USAF personnel, as well as the houses occupied by UK residents. Under the community charge, the parish council will receive no income from the military facilities nor from the houses occupied by USAF personnel. We estimate that we will lose over 95 per cent of our income.

If the Rendlesham parish council chooses to replace that income, without which it will be difficult for it to function as a body to represent the residents of Rendlesham, we are advised by the Department of the Environment that we have to levy a community charge on the estimated 140 unfortunate British residents of Rendlesham.

Thus those British residents will have to pay for the work forced on to the parish council by the presence of the USAF airbase and its USAF personnel who will, from April 1, 1990, contribute nothing to the parish council's income. That despite the fact that, for example, seven out of eight planning applications in Rendlesham relate to matters associated with the USAF presence.

From April 1, 1990, the Government itself will take over the parish council's ability to levy a rate on the military facilities and will negotiate a payment in lieu of community charge from the USAF. In exceptional cases, this council believes that the Government should be prepared to return part of that negotiated payment to the council.

With only just two months to go until the introduction of the community charge, and in the week that Parliament is to debate the funding of local government, we seek to draw your attention to a particular anomaly and unfairness which must affect tens, if not hundreds, of parish councils around the country.

Yours faithfully,
MICHAEL BUNBURY (Chairman, Rendlesham Parish Council), Naunton Hall, Rendlesham, Woodbridge, Suffolk. January 16.

From Miss D. M. A. Ingram

Sir, In reply to Canon Henderson's letter (January 13) I have a problem of a Trinitarian nature. I declared my name in full — i.e., three Christian names and surname. Imagine my surprise when I received three letters from the council, each addressed to a different Christian name and registering me as three people for the poll tax.

Perhaps Canon Henderson can offer me some theological advice. Yours faithfully,
DOROTHEA INGRAM, 6 Westhorpe Road, Putney, SW15. January 13.

Eyre at the National

From Mr Robert Hardy

Sir, In an article on the Arts page (January 13) National Theatre director, Richard Eyre, talking to Sheridan Morley, is reported as looking forward to rivalry with the Royal Shakespeare Company, "even if we do end up chasing the same few actors and directors who are still willing to work for our kind of money". He is also quoted as believing that "most actors are now sucked into rich cinema lives; and they just don't want to do live theatre badly enough to risk the reviews without even the compensation of good money".

I suggest to Mr Eyre that there never was a time in British theatre when more talent, some of it of the highest order, could be seen to chase such few opportunities. Nor have I met more than a handful of performers who are really so fearful of theatre critics, or so beguiled by the phantasms of "rich cinema lives", that they would seriously turn down the opportunity of artistically rewarding work in either of our two great national companies.

Mr Eyre is said to suppose that writers "still seem frightened by the wide open spaces of the Olivier". They are wisely frightened, I am afraid, since their words are so often lost in the spaces of that spread, unfocused auditorium, or in the wastes of the massive platform of the Olivier stage. The National Theatre organization and its performers battle courageously to fill the one, and minimize the disadvantages of the other.

I am, Sir, yours etc.,
ROBERT HARDY, Upper Botney House, Upper Botney, nr Henley on Thames, Oxfordshire. January 10.

Letters to the Editor should carry a daytime telephone number. They may be sent to a fax number — (01)782 5946.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Issues of authority in Europe

From Mrs G. Willson-Bardinet
Sir, Mr Norman Tebbit's article (January 9) was both timely and pertinent. On the one hand, the inevitable alignment of economic policies within the EC calls for comprehensive agreement and a modicum of efficient central planning; on the other, political developments throughout central and Eastern Europe demonstrate clearly the necessity for each national entity to have an honest and responsible elected assembly which is empowered to take measures reflecting the general will.

We should reflect on these two developments long and carefully. What heritage are we going to pass on to future generations? One of prosperity and humanity, we trust, but also one which takes into account the long centuries of representative government as practised in the British Isles, one in which the phrase "write to your MP about it", still means something. Let us not forget that, unlike most of their counterparts who are elected as part of a national list, British MEPs have constituencies.

These Euro-constituencies were canvassed in many cases, extremely ably and fully last June. The apathy of the British general public must be considered a key ingredient in the lack of knowledge about who represents whom in Strasbourg and just what his or her mandate is.

Since 1945 France has drawn up two very different constitutions for herself. Far from causing unease, the creation of new regulations and administrative bodies is seen by the French as an attractive and wholly worthwhile pursuit. *Quot homines, tot sententiae*...

Eminent French political personalities are at this very moment touring Eastern Europe to help in the apprenticeship of independent political organisation. Britain's institutions have great value too; their example has inspired countless lovers of freedom. We must make sure that our MEPs know what their electors think about this vital question, and if necessary we must insist that their role be one of guaranteeing accountability, both in the European and national assemblies.

Yours etc.,
GILLIAN WILLSON-BARDINET, 21 rue St Honoré, Versailles, France. January 10.

From Lord Gladwyn

Sir, Mr Tebbit may possibly have "fused" himself into a conger! He appears to think that "Europe" can only consist of a number of totally independent nation-states in a sort of free trade area involving virtually no limitations whatsoever on sovereignty. This "Darwinian" conception of a survival of the fittest is in direct

hope competitively to recruit to train — let alone keep — the good staff the litigants are paying for; and that "crisis management" increases the strain and solves no problems for those who soldier on, without sufficient modern equipment or enough staff?

I have sat regularly at Bromley in 1988 and early 1989; since then, in all the Sussex county courts, I could man a (small) court with the good staff I have personally seen leave for better salaries in the real world — already in 1990 I see it continuing.

Junior judges see and hear a lot, and meet more disappointed and frustrated court-users than do Lord Mackay's colleagues, who hold the purse-strings. Not a penny paid over the counter for civil justice should be spent on anything else.

Yours faithfully,
MICHAEL KENNEDY, Iford Court, Iford, nr Lewes, East Sussex. January 12.

Prison population

From the Chief Executive of the Apex Trust

Sir, Your parliamentary report today (January 9) on the Labour Party's proposals for reducing the prison population highlights a critical shortcoming in the Government's proposals so far announced for greater use of non-custodial sentences.

While we would join Mr Hattersley in welcoming any restrictions in the use of custody for non-violent offenders, we share his concern that the emphasis of the forthcoming Criminal Justice White Paper may be on punishment rather than rehabilitation. We argue that of equal importance to the extension in use of community-based penalties are the opportunities offered to those serving such sentences to make a decisive turn away from crime.

It is already the practice in some areas of the country that offenders on probation orders are given the chance to engage in training and job-search activities and it is our belief that the success of any new

alternatives to custody will depend on their ability to offer similar opportunities.

It was also particularly appropriate that, in his speech, Mr Hattersley chose to direct his comments towards employers and leading community figures, since this gives proper recognition to the central role that employment plays in turning an offender away from a life of crime.

As your Home Affairs Correspondent noted (report, January 3), the current failure of many employers to consider ex-offenders for jobs on their merits can be the single most important factor leading to re-offending. It is our contention, therefore, that an essential complement to the forthcoming White Paper would be a major Government initiative to promote positive recruitment practices or, at the very least, raise employers' awareness of the Rehabilitation of Offenders Act. Yours,

BILL MATHER, Chief Executive, Apex Trust, Brixton Hill Place, SW2. January 9.

Time and again

From the Reverend G. H. Sansome

Sir, If Mr Harrison (January 1) wishes to know when an unused diary is valid for future years, he should consult a recent reprint of the Book of Common Prayer, whose prefatory matter includes a table of the principal Christian festivals, as far as the early years of the 22nd century.

Thus, Easter Day, which this year falls on April 15, is shown as occurring again on that date in 2001, 2063, 2074, 2085, and 2096. One word of warning — the last of

Jobs geared to child needs

From Dr Mary Feetham
Sir, Mr Norman Fowler's resignation from ministerial office (report, January 4) has highlighted the importance of both parents in the upbringing of their children.

Until last year I worked as a community medical officer for children under five. I saw many disturbed, unhappy children, among them one sad, small boy in particular. His mother worked. In the morning he was taken straight to a child-minder, who gave him breakfast. She then took him to a pre-school unit, where he spent the morning. She picked him up and looked after him until his mother fetched him and took him home to bed. Small wonder that he woke in the night wanting his mother's love and care.

It is not difficult to imagine that some children whose parents are too busy and tired to take a real interest in their children's needs and who do not provide a happy family unit leave home in their teens and land on our streets, with all the dangers that that entails, particularly in winter.

I am, Sir, yours faithfully,
MARY FEETHAM, 1 Bacon's Lane, Highgate, N6. January 15.

From the Chairman of the Equal Opportunities Commission

Sir, Norman Fowler's resignation has provoked a flurry of comments about how many jobs are not yet "family-friendly". At the Equal Opportunities Commission we very much welcome this debate, our strategy for the 1990s is to help men as well as women, be effective and responsible family members, as well as effective and responsible employees.

As we are all increasingly faced with work and family changes, we hope both employers and the Government will develop coherent and practical policies backed by adequate resources which will support families.

The challenge of this decade is about removing traditional barriers and opening up the opportunities for developing individual skill and creative energy; it is about working together, about more sharing and a better balance and recognition of who does what at work and at home.

Yours faithfully,
JOANNA FOSTER, Chairman, Equal Opportunities Commission, Overseas House, Quay Street, Manchester 3. January 8.

'See For Yourself'

From Mr John Murray

Sir, During my 25 years as a BBC producer it was a firm if unwritten rule that programmes were not played back to interested parties before transmission (letter, January 13). The argument was that people could seldom resist the temptation to press for changes that would show them to advantage, and that such pressure was hard to resist.

I left the BBC less than a year ago. How quickly things change.

Yours faithfully,
JOHN MURRAY, 45 Grove Way, Esher, Surrey. January 14.

APT in use

From Mr G. P. Barnard

Sir, Your Transport Correspondent's report on January 13 omits to mention that, far from "languishing in disgrace", the Advanced Passenger Train is being used as a restaurant, classroom and exhibition room.

The whole train is being well maintained and preserved as part of the National Collection of Railway Equipment, marking as it does a specific era of design and development. Its preservation will enable future historians to judge whether its amazing series of innovative designs were good value for money or whether the popular journalists' view of "failure" is appropriate.

In the meantime, plans are nearing completion to enlarge and upgrade Crewe Heritage Centre which will involve moving the APT to another part of the site. It will continue to be used by tourists and schoolchildren; the external paintwork peeling from its aluminium shell will be replaced and its engineering features will be available for specialist study.

Yours faithfully,
G. P. BARNARD, (Honorary Secretary to the Trustees), Crewe Heritage Centre, North Junction Signal Box, Vernon Way, Crewe, Cheshire. January 15.

Vetting visitors

From Mrs J. A. M. Pearce

Sir, An aunt of mine kept a hat in the hall. When the door bell rang, she put it on before opening the door. If it were someone she wished to see, she would remark how lucky it was that she had just come in. If it were someone she wished to avoid, she would say how sorry she was to be just going out.

Nowadays, as hats are not so popular, I should appreciate an alternative suggestion for dealing with visitors.

Yours faithfully,
J. A. PEARCE, Boxgrove Cottage, Highfield Road, West Byfleet, Surrey. January 14.

Mrs T's Home help

Asked about the Home Office minister opposite him in 1987, Alf Dubs, Labour's immigration spokesman, declared: "It's a lousy job. But he's got nowhere else to go. He's not good enough."

It has proved one of the most spectacularly inaccurate predictions in recent politics. While Dubs that year lost his seat and disappeared without trace, David Waddington went on to become a highly successful Conservative chief whip. Then, in October, he was catapulted from a ranking outside the Cabinet to one of the three top offices of state as Home Secretary.

Few ministers can expect a harder year. Waddington will have to steer through the Commons the bill to give British passports to 225,000 Hong Kong citizens and he is responsible for the mammoth reforms of broadcasting. He will put his own mark on the criminal justice system with a white paper due this month and a green paper on the probation service soon after. He has to decide whether to legislate on Nazi war criminals in Britain and what to do about the right of the accused to silence.

Waddington is probably the first of Mrs Thatcher's Home Secretaries to share her gut instincts on law and order. His public image is that of a hardliner. He has always favoured the return of capital punishment and other pronouncements have helped to type him as a right-winger.

It was as a junior minister to Norman Tebbit at the Department of Employment, helping to put through the trade union law changes, that he declared of some of the Congress House barons: "Clearly there are some very nasty people in positions of authority."

Mobbed by students at Manchester University in 1986, he declared famously: "If I was a parent of any one of those children I would put them across my knee and flog them." As immigration minister he was responsible for removing from MPs the right to put a stop on deportations of illegal immigrants while they made representations on their behalf, and for pushing through the Immigration Carriers Liability Act, penalising airlines who took the risk of bringing in would-be immigrants with less than perfect papers.

Waddington appeared, if not to relish the role, then at least not to

THE TIMES PROFILE

DAVID WADDINGTON

lose any sleep over it. But friends, and he has plenty in politics, say that there is an element of caricature in all this.

Any man who has had the two roles of immigration minister and chief whip runs the risk of being branded an authoritarian. And his image will suffer even more when family connections make him a mill-owner as well.

But during his stint in the immigration job, Waddington took obvious pleasure in having eased the subject out of the front of politics. At the Conservative conference in 1983 he was cheered by a few but succeeded in routing the repatriation lobby led by Harvey Proctor. And he took pains to establish and maintain good contacts with the leaders of ethnic communities.

It was partly his determination to keep immigration issues in the background of politics which led him on his arrival at the Home Office to oppose the Foreign Office plans for Hong Kong passports. He hoped the problem might be met instead by some sort of special entry clearance for key Hong Kong workers. But he accepts now that he was not only outvoted in Cabinet on the question but out-argued as well and that his plan was a non-starter. The moment Labour said it would refuse to honour any such arrangements.

Becoming Home Secretary has forced him into a few more adjustments. The former chief whip is now a little shamefaced about how often he used to

complain to senior ministers that they did not put in enough time at the Commons. As one who prepares meticulously for his eight or nine meetings a day, he now finds it hard to get to the House himself.

And though he has not changed his views on capital punishment, he is beginning to find them something of a hindrance because they are the one subject interviewers want to raise. And he accepts that hanging will not return, pointing out that there has been a majority against it in the Commons since the war.

What makes Waddington particularly valuable to Mrs Thatcher as Home Secretary is that he represents, as many of his Cabinet colleagues do not, an authentic regional voice. He is deeply rooted in his constituency of Ribbles Valley (formerly Clitheroe). When he lost the traditionally Labour seat of Nelson and Colne in 1974 he did not go carpet-bagging looking for another constituency and would not have contemplated resuming his political career outside Lancashire. Instead, the seat came to him: the sitting member where he lived died young and Clitheroe asked him to stand.

His wife, Gilly, one of the most effervescent and approachable of political wives (her father, too, was an MP), who admits that she could gossip for England, is closely involved in his political life. They have five children and friends say

BIOGRAPHY

1929: Born east Lancashire, son of wealthy mill owner. Educated Sedburgh School.
1950: President of Oxford University Conservative Association.
1951: Barrister, Gray's Inn, QC, crown court recorder.
1958: Married Gillian Green, three sons and two daughters.
1968-1974: MP for Nelson and Colne.
1979: MP for Clitheroe, then Ribbles Valley. Government whip.
1981-83: Parliamentary Secretary, Department of Employment.
1983-87: Minister of State, Home Office, handling immigration. Chief whip.
1989: Home Secretary.

that the Home Secretary has no other discernible interests: politics is their life.

The former barrister and crown court recorder is an old-fashioned public service politician. Typically his first act at the Home Office was to call for the drawing up of a victims' charter to ensure that everything possible is done for members of the public suffering from crime.

Waddington represents at the Cabinet table the voice of Middle England. His instincts are anti-scurrying, anti-pornography, pro-discipline. His appointment will reassure those who populate the Conservative conference that their views are heard and understood — even if they are not always acted upon. And he believes they have a right to that reassurance. But he will not be a tool in their hands: he believes that Leon Brittan, for example, stored trouble for himself by trying too hard to please the party faithful with his annual package of offerings.

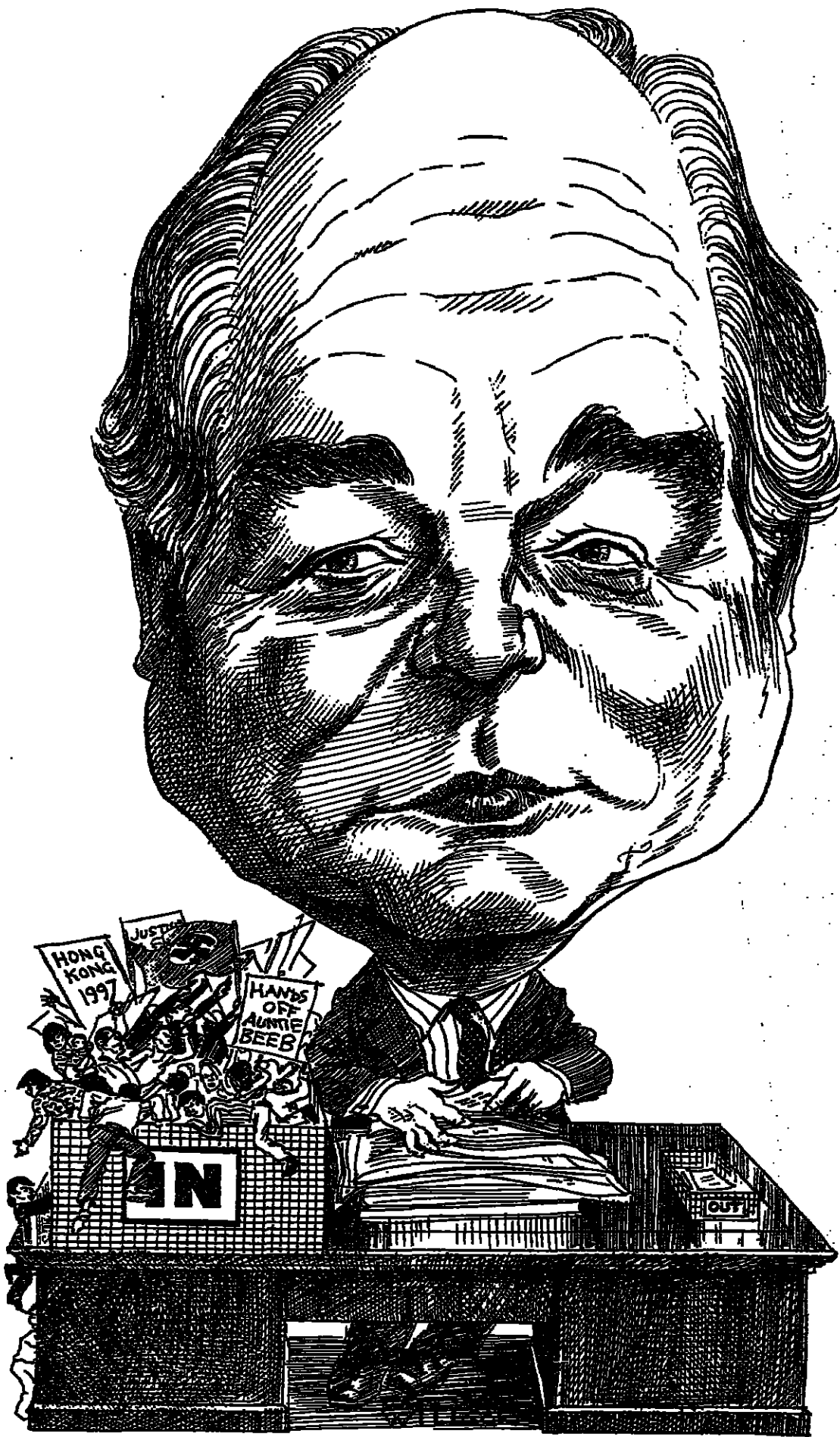
Nor will Waddington's appointment to the Home Office mean a brake on the switch to punishment in the community. Waddington genuinely rejoices at the fall in the prison population this year and he has no wish to see youngsters sent unnecessarily to prisons. What he is likely to see, though, is a little more stress on the word punishment and on fines, compensation, community work and curfews.

What everybody tells you about Waddington is that he is a straight man who tells it like it is. On immigration he was tough but fair. Both in that role and as chief whip he had the art of saying no without giving offence. And if he is right wing it is a right-winging which he does not allow to get in the way of practical solutions.

He has been pitchforked on the wrong side of 60 into a job he never expected and he has no expectations of further advance. And as a former chief whip he has the shrewdest sense of any as to what the party will wear and what it will not.

In David Mellor (Broadcasting) and John Patten (Criminal Justice) he has the strongest middle rank team of any ministry. What that adds up to is that Waddington can, if he chooses, prove a key influence on the way this government conducts its business in the run up to an election. Can the Straight Man stay that way at the very top?

Robin Oakley



Introducing the Three Graces. For almost 170 years, the daughters of Jove personified grace, beauty and joy, at Woburn Abbey in Bedfordshire. Now, they symbolize government ambivalence and lost opportunity.

Pecking and cooing at each other in a sensual, slow dance, the Graces were commissioned from Antonio Canova in 1817 by the 6th Duke of Bedford to adorn his temple to beauty.

Until 1985 they continued to dance uninterrupted. Then, following an appearance at the Treasure Houses of Great Britain exhibition in Wash-



Sarah Jane Checkland

ington, they were sold by the Tavistock family to an anonymous company based in the Cayman Islands. Their whereabouts have been a mystery

Who will be heirs to the Graces?

ever since, although they are the subject of an export ban by the Department of Trade. The Getty Museum is known to want to buy them, and is waiting for the export ban to expire on March 12. Meanwhile, the Victoria & Albert Museum is desperately trying to save the Graces for the nation.

Its efforts are handicapped by an embarrassing episode in 1982, when the Government flunked an opportunity to buy

them from the Tavistocks in lieu of £1 million tax. As a result, the V&A must find £7.6 million now being asked by the Cayman Islands company. It is the largest sum the museum has ever sought, and its total annual purchase grant is £1.145 million.

This week, as Save Britain's Heritage backs the V&A by producing a fund-raising brochure, the question of the Graces' future is as baffling as ever. There is talk of "explor-

ing entrepreneurial ways" of raising the money for the V&A and it is believed that the sculpture will shortly be put on display as an incentive to donors. Meanwhile, a London sculptor has been asked by anonymous sources to create a copy of the great work.

All these desperate measures might still be avoided if campaigners seek to take advantage of a legal dilemma faced by the Department of the Environment. In Som-

erset last spring an executor was convicted for removing an overmantle mirror and fire fender from Orchardleigh House, deemed to be "fixtures or fittings" from a Grade I listed building. It was anticipated that the local council would use this law to order the Tavistocks to return the Graces to Woburn. In fact, the planning officer for Mid Bedfordshire County Council advised the council that they had this power to get the

Graces back, but instead the councillors referred the issue to the Department of the Environment.

In December, David Trippier, a junior minister for the Environment, ruled that, while there were grounds for regarding the statue as part of a listed building, it was not "an appropriate use" of the listed building legislation to "control what would widely be thought to be chattels". At the time, Marcus Binney, of Save Britain's Heritage, was apoplectic. "It is pathetic... As the minister responsible, he couldn't have produced a timper excuse."

But, whatever the reasoning behind the department's decision, the question remains whether Trippier's boss, Christopher Patten, the Environment Secretary, has exercised his discretion reasonably.

The reason for the minister's apparent ambivalence might be the Treasury. For he must know that hundreds of other works of art on which inheritance tax has been paid for generations could now be ruled "fixtures and fittings", without a resale value. "The Treasury might find itself having to refund millions and millions of pounds," said one commentator.

But, whatever the reasoning behind the department's decision, the question remains whether Trippier's boss, Christopher Patten, the Environment Secretary, has exercised his discretion reasonably.

4 WHOLESOME READS TO KEEP YOU HEALTHY.



Are you fed up with hours of exercising that seem to have no effect? 'Thorough Exercise Log' is a personal training diary that helps you use workout programmes effectively.

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weather? Then 'Stay Well in Winter' has a wealth of information to help you feel healthier and happier during those long evenings.

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THE TIMES

Lord Scarman puts the case for community involvement in creating the environment

Building lives with bricks and mortar



'The central purpose of planning and land use has lost its way. We have become overwhelmed by the volume and complexity of legislation'

Lord Scarman

Almost nine years since his report into the Brixton "disorders", as they were euphemistically called, Lord Scarman is ambivalent about his findings. "Clearly there have been a number of developments since 1981 which makes it necessary to reconsider some of the recommendations. None is basically flawed, but some are out of date and in need of review," he says.

But the central tenet — that "local communities must be fully and effectively involved in planning, in the provision of local services, and in the managing and financing of specific projects" — remains as true today as it was then.

Launching the fifth year of the Community Enterprise Scheme, sponsored by The Times, the Royal Institute of British Architects and Business in the Community, Lord Scarman said yesterday that the possibility, highlighted by the 1981 riots, of the rise of a permanent, alienated underclass had not diminished, and talked about how he felt the problem could be ameliorated.

"When I conducted my inquiry I was made aware of just how much the built environment, especially housing, does affect people's lives. We seem to be becoming more aware of the social consequences of design and the quality of our neighbourhoods, but also that direct participation in the process can improve the end product." Local involvement in, and in some cases control over, creating the environment is an essential part of local democracy, "even though democracy always slows down the process".

Partnerships between the public, private and voluntary sectors have become almost commonplace over the past decade, but their success has been patchy. "There is no substitute for co-ordinated inner-city policy by central government. The Prime Minister

accepted this in her election night victory speech in 1987, but the process of turning this into effective policies has been very slow."

Lord Scarman has recently had an opportunity to become involved in his own community architecture project, at his home in Thanet, Kent. At an early stage of the design, he asked if the architect, David Ruffie, could move the position of his plot slightly, so that he could take his wheelchair down the side of the house to give access to his small garden.

Last year the development won a regional prize in the Housing Design Awards, sponsored by the RIBA, the Department of the Environment and the National House Building Council, for being "original, consistent and simple". There was, Lord Scarman said, "real pleasure" in the village over the award, creating a "great sense of pride".

For many years after the war, he ran a substantial planning practice, in conjunction with civil aviation and common law, doing a large number of inquiries. Lewis (later Lord) Silkin, minister of

town and country planning in Attlee's post-war government and the man behind the 1947 Planning Act, was a hero.

"Silkin saved the English landscape when some European countries were losing theirs, but now the central purpose of planning and land

use has lost its way. We have become overwhelmed by the volume and complexity of legislation. If only we had remained true to his ideals."

It is time to take stock, he believes. As private developers and house builders have taken over, the public's right to have a say has been squeezed out. "Public participation is almost a constitutional problem of local democracy."

"If government is not prepared to democratize planning down to the local level, then local public inquiries and the initiative of local people — community enterprise — must fill the vacuum. There must be some statutory structure enabling people to be heard in proposals for the development or redevelopment of their environment." Developers would have a statutory duty to consult local people, who would have a statutory right to be consulted, and be given access to public finance to help present their case effectively. Otherwise, "the train of development will go through, while the planning process is sent up a side-track."

"Planning should be a partnership to preserve the quality of the environment without stultifying development."

The United States and France are big enough countries to have "lost" their biggest planning mistakes in vast tracts of beautiful landscape. England cannot afford that luxury. "The skyline of the capital, particularly Westminster, must be preserved as the French preserve the centre of Paris."

"Architects should rise to the challenge of building in beautiful places, not be deterred by them." Chatsworth, the classical mansion set in the Derbyshire countryside, demonstrates how landscape can be improved by a great building.

Extensive television coverage of architecture has increased public awareness and informed taste in recent years. The Prince of Wales, who is patron of the Community Enterprise Scheme, has contributed to the great debate. Scarman, who once described him as the "Prince of Conscience", supports his "charismatic leadership in improving the quality of life in the inner city."

He said it had been a salutary education to be the UK president of the International Year of Shelter for the Homeless in 1987. "Given the prosperity of our society, there should be no homeless. At last this problem seems to have been recognized in the Treasury's steeplechase. I have no doubt that much more will be achieved in the 1990s, especially in dealing with the absurdity of bed and breakfast accommodation and breaking the homeless's cycle of dependency."

Lord Scarman has always thought of himself as "a man of action rather than a philosopher, but it is for others to say". Whether he is campaigning for the release of the Guildford Four, petitioning for a Bill of Rights or writing letters to the Press about the future of the Oval cricket ground, his role in public life has not ceased since his formal retirement.

"I dislike thought without action, and action without thought," he said. "The community entrepreneurs behind the year's entries for the awards scheme will show us all what can be achieved when you do both."

Charles Kneivitt

BOOKS

Kriegspiel of history

Mark Almond on the wars going on in the ashes of the last war

Since the mid-Eighties, West German historians have been involved in a bitter dispute about the causes of the Holocaust, and whether Nazi genocide should be considered unique, or can only be understood in the context of contemporary atrocities, particularly Stalin's. The prize-winning social historian, Richard Evans, has now contributed a short volume to the controversy.

Evans makes no bones about where he stands on the issues, both historical and political. Unfortunately, this book is too partisan to stand as an account of the debate. Perhaps it was the case that at the beginning, in 1986, party political affiliations in West Germany determined the response of individual historians. On the right there were conservative and Christian Democrat historians who wished to argue that not everything in German history led to Auschwitz, and that the Nazis' murderousness owed something to pan-European ideologies, such as Fascism and Soviet Communism. The left tended to argue that the peculiarities of German culture and social development were responsible for incomparably awful Nazi crimes.

Evans himself sides with the left. Fair enough, but not good enough when it leads him to play down the contributions from impeccably liberal and social democratic historians who do not agree with his simple schema. On the other hand, the Marxist American historian, Arno Mayer, has produced a left-wing mirror image of the ideas of Ernst Nolte, the favourite villain of the German left. Mayer revives the old inter-war Comintern line that Nazism was primarily anti-Communism, with anti-Semitism as a vicious by-product.

The Bremen historian, Immanuel Geiss, the pupil and defender of Fritz Fischer, who was attacked by the right in the early

1960s for his unflattering interpretation of Imperial Germany's responsibility for the First World War, weighed into the German debate unexpectedly on the side of the right of the right-wing historians to be heard. More importantly, Geiss has published a devastating critique of the intellectual and moral role of Jürgen Habermas, the left-wing Frankfurt philosopher. Habermas launched the controversy with an ill-informed attack on "Nazi historians", who were trying to justify the then controversial stationing of Cruise and Pershing missiles in West Germany by delegitimizing the Soviet Union, on account of what Habermas clearly regarded as atrocity-mongering. Geiss drew attention to Habermas's ignorance of Soviet history: how else could he have referred to Stalin's policy of mass starvation and summary execution in the Ukraine and elsewhere as the "expulsion" of the kulaks, and what would Habermas have said if any of his opponents had used the similar Nazi euphemism "evacuation" to characterize the gassing of European Jewry?

Evans defends Habermas on that point, but also plays the numbers game with Stalin's victims. *Glasnost* seems to have passed him by, and Evans contents himself with quoting what one might call "sagacious" western historians to prove that Stalin's tally numbered only hundreds of thousands. But then even in his own field of social studies, he comes up with the extraordinary assertion that, on the credit side, East Germany is a more equal society than West Germany.

Evans dismisses Geiss's criticisms in a footnote, only quoting him in support of his own case. But Geiss must be taken as the central opponent of the Habermas School. Neo-Nazis do not relativize the gas chambers. They deny their existence. What Geiss does is to ask who really threatens West German democracy. He finds that Habermas and his school tend to



GLYNN BOYD HART

divide society into progressive and reactionary. Those Habermas anathematisations are to be outcasts, forbidden to teach, etc. Where Evans argues that "most of the arguments" advanced by historians like Ernst Nolte and Joachim Fest "are derived from the propaganda of the Nazis themselves", Geiss draws attention to the similarity between Nazi ways of thinking and much of the intolerance of the modern left in West Germany. The latter promotes a state of intellectual civil war, since it is unwilling to accept the good faith of critics. Just as the Nazis accused their opponents of being in the pay of Jews, so defenders of the current West German state are

American toadies. Despite, or rather because of their incomprehensible German waffle about "tolerance", the Frankfurt school and its historical epigones are the chief opponents of real pluralism within the Federal Republic. Nolte by contrast argues that West Germany is the only German state which has allowed both him and his critics to exist freely, if far from harmoniously.

In a debate that has revolved around profound issues of morality — is it worse to mark someone down for death for racial rather than social reasons? — Evans is far too concerned with internal academic politics. He clearly thinks it very important who should be

head of the German Historical Institutes in London and elsewhere, but apart from causing distress to the current directors, his discussion of this and other appointments will enlighten readers little about the most tragic and controversial events of the 20th century. However, though this book is a symptom of the phenomena it claims to analyse, its clarity of style will make it useful to the reader who has not been able to follow the furor in German, but would like to get a feel for the emotions aroused on one side. What such a reader will miss are the arguments against Professor Evans's position, which were perhaps too good to be mentioned.

The bespoke universe

David Jones

THE STUFF OF THE UNIVERSE

By John Gribbin and Martin Rees Heinemann, £16.95

A principle is a statement so beguiling that you decide it must always be upheld — whether or not it is true or makes sense. Political principles are a fruitful source of trouble. Scientific principles are usually confirmed in their status only after a long and testing period of probation. Gribbin and Rees have woven an account of modern Big Bang cosmology around two more recent cosmological principles.

The "Flatness Principle" asserts that the Big Bang exploded with exactly the right velocity to bring the expanding Universe to ultimate static "flatness". It will gradually brake to an asymptotic halt, neither expanding for ever through excess velocity, nor falling back again under excess gravity. The measured expansion rate seems nearly right for the job already, so it is challenging to pretend that it is exactly and necessarily right, and see what follows. One consequence is that there must be more to the Universe than meets the eye.

All the known galaxies put together don't contain enough gravitating matter to drag the Universe to a halt. For this to happen, the Big Bang must have generated vast amounts of some "dark matter" unlike anything we know on Earth. What could it be? Physicists have come up with an intriguing list of possibilities: exotic particles like axions or neutrinos, clumps of quarks, miniature black holes, magnetic monopoles, even cosmic string. All can be squared with current physics, more or less; many seem to fit the way the galaxies are distributed; none (except for neutrinos) are actually known to exist. Purely as a stimulus to speculation, the Flatness Principle seems to be earning its keep.

The "Anthropic Principle" is more surprising. It claims that the Universe is specially adapted for human life. If it wasn't, of course, we wouldn't be here to assert the principle; but that's not quite a fair argument. The Big Bang burst into existence about fifteen billion years ago, not merely with particular physical characteristics, but with the laws of physics to govern its development. It clumped and condensed into galaxies of stars; some stars formed heavy elements inside them by nuclear fusion;

some of these exploded as supernovae and showered the heavy elements into space; some of the heavy elements condensed as planets around a second generation of stars, some of the planets found themselves circling stars so congenial and long-lived that they could go in for extensive and elaborate chemistry; some of that chemistry turned into life; and, on one occasion at least, some of that life evolved intelligence.

Even a trivial alteration in the physical laws, and one or more of these processes would have been stymied. Indeed, most imaginable sets of physical laws would have produced completely boring universes in which almost nothing ever happened.

The Anthropic Principle asserts that the laws of physics are somehow constrained to have interesting consequences like ourselves. God seems to have chosen them, if not exactly as a route to intelligent life, then at any rate for maximum entertainment. The claim that the Universe is here just to produce us is embarrassingly preposterous, not to say conceited; can it be made less parochial? One ingenious proposal, the "Many Worlds" hypothesis, holds that there are an infinite number of universes, each with its own set of physical laws. Most of them are total deserts, a few are horrendous nightmares; we are in the one whose laws fit us — just as we're on a planet whose climate fits us.

This tale of two principles makes an exciting and demanding account of some of the frontiers of modern cosmology. But Gribbin and Rees have the good sense not to nail their colours too enthusiastically to either of these rickety masts. Principles, particularly when they lead to ludicrous conclusions like the identity of everybody or the wholesale existence of unobservable universes, need to be handled with care.

Quoting passports to the English heritage, and lost lands of gold

If Prince Charles ever had the good fortune to meet Marghanita Laski, I am sure that there was a meeting of minds, for the "common ground" that she was working to establish at the time of her death is very much what the Prince of Wales spoke about publicly only a few weeks ago. *Common Ground* is an anthology of poems that used to be common knowledge: they were learnt at school, quoted from and referred to so generally and so frequently that they could be taken for granted. Alas, no more. I have always quoted, because I grew up with exactly this heritage, but I have grown accustomed to looks of glazed incomprehension in the young when I speak of "gathering rosebuds", or mention "world enough and time", "season of mists and mellow fruitfulness", or even "the ranks of Tuscany". But, to my shame, I find that I am

losing the habit of quotation, because lengthy explanations often destroy the very nuances to be conveyed by the shorthand of a shared literary experience. It is also far too long since I set a class to learn a poem by heart. Armed with this anthology, and its thoughtful introduction, I shall return with fresh vigour to the fray. For this is a campaign worth fighting, not with pitched battles, but with the guerrilla warfare of familiarity. "O to be in England" is as easy to memorize as the words to the theme tune of "Neighbours", and rather more

worth having in one's memory. The young of today deserve better, and we owe it to them, "lest we forget". There are 254 poems in this collection and one passage of prose, arranged under 14 headings such as "Loves", "Distances" or "Gone for a Soldier". Like all anthologies, it is a personal choice, and every reader will find inclusions and exclusions

states strange and exalted" — and "easy to get hold of, and therefore useful". Put these three requirements together and you are bound to find yourself with something memorable, and Marghanita

Laski followed Lord Wavell (whose *Other Men's Flowers* is still one of the best anthologies around for this very reason) in including only poems that had stuck in her mind. As a result there is little modern poetry, as its rhythms and rhymes are often difficult to grasp; but this collection is intended as an aperitif, to entice readers into the golden land of poetry, in the hope that they will prolong their voyage beyond the remote Bermudas to, perhaps, the fairy island of Shalott (to my mind, the most inexplicable omission of all). Not everything here is obvious

Isabel Raphael

COMMON GROUND
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Marghanita Laski
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begun, by letting slip that Nostrom has a new product with additive properties that make the coils look eco-squeaky clean. Better still, the deal offers Alex an opportunity to shift his *bête noire*, Sir Jocelyn Pardoe.

So the scene is set for a classic confrontation between the forces of evil and good, the latter presented by lovely Sally Fluke, the only Prosser FA who sticks rigorously to the job spec, and Jeremy Seaman, a raw graduate trainee too gormless to com-

prehend more than a fraction of what's going on around him. Meanwhile Prosser's pride and joy, a ferocious female goshawk named Maggie (come off it Rose, that's a bit cheap!) hovers disdainfully overhead, before swooping on prey of her own. Filthy Lucre is a glorious first novel that oscillates between low farce and high comedy. The ogre Prosser dominates, but there's a supporting cast of well drawn characters, a richly absurd plot, and a suitably cathartic denouement. Read it.

I'm afraid the same injunction doesn't apply to poet Alan Brownjohn's first experiment with the novel. Set in 1999, when a fifth Tory administration is poised to lead Britain into a new millennium of freedom and enterprise, *The Way You Tell Them* is a disappointing rerun of the 1984 theme. A young dissident novelist is taken up, flattered, and subsequently emasculated by arch capitalist Sir Clive Deaneley, against a background of rising totalitarianism. Unfortunately, while Chris Loxham is a wimp, while Sir Clive wouldn't last 10 seconds in the ring with Alex Prosser. So the confrontation between them falls flat. The book has some very good jokes, but that's all that can be said in its favour.

On an altogether more serious note, Saul Bellow's *The Bellarosa Connection* is an intensely worked meditation on the meaning of memory. The story is slight: a Jewish immigrant, matched from Nazi occupied Europe, is continually frustrated from expressing gratitude by his rescuer's reluctance to be reminded of less happy times. Harry Feinstein's futile efforts are observed and chronicled by an old friend who is obsessed with the experience of being Jewish in America. Bellow's later writing has none of the flashiness of his earlier work. Not a word is wasted, not a thought superfluous.

William Riviere, a writer at the other end of his career, has produced a first novel of great promise. *Watercolour Sky* is a beautifully written, melancholy tale of star-crossed lovers and the vanishing lifestyle of Norfolk landed gentry.

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SOME REVIEWS MAY BE REPRINTED FROM YESTERDAY'S LATER EDITIONS

THE ARTS

To tell it like it isn't

TELEVISION
Sheridan Morley

When, in about 1964, I went to work on an ITN documentary series called *Dateline*, an old newsreel cameraman gave me his definition of what made a good current affairs programme. "Decide what you want to tell them, tell it to them, and then tell them you've told them." Simplistic, perhaps, but it led to coherent documentaries, and in some areas the advice is still being followed. Elsewhere it is not; two of last night's programmes neatly illustrated the gulf that still divides dogmatic from free-form current affairs specials.

BBC 2's *Timewatch* set out to demolish the multiple conspiracy theories surrounding Rudolf Hess, and did so pretty effectively. Whether or not you care if the old man who committed suicide in Spandau three years ago at the age of 93 really committed suicide, or was really Rudolf Hess, depends on the level of your fascination with old Nazi history. There are, indeed, people around who would still go out and buy the Hitler Diaries if you put them on sale, regardless of authenticity.

Hess was himself generally reckoned to be somewhat less than totally "all there" several years before Nuremberg. After his bizarre flight to Scotland, he took to objecting that British secret police were interfering with his socks.

Now, an English consultant surgeon has come forward to suggest that there were really two men called Hess, and that they were switched, possibly in mid-air between Germany and Scotland in 1941. This, it is alleged, is why the old man was finally done away with in Spandau, shortly before they demolished the gaol.

Interesting, but wildly and demonstrably implausible, or so concluded *Timewatch*, in what might, given average luck, have been the last Hess documentary for at least a week.

But the Paul Ashton/Roy Davies programme did at least have a thesis and set out to prove it, which is more than can be said for *Seduction of Style* (Channel 4, in the *Signals* series), which rambled around the subject of style in politics and contemporary life with all the assured sense of purpose of a blind sheep in a field.

It started with some clips of the famous Hugh Hudson commercial for Neil Kinnock, in which he wandered around cliff-tops apparently auditioning for a remake of *Jonathan Livingston Seagull*. Then John Thacker's report went on to suggest that we had now, as a nation, become so obsessed with style as to have forgotten the content all together.

Several interviews followed, with style experts so laid-back as to be horizontal at the end of the hour we were no further forward. We were only aware that the programme, too, had sacrificed any real thesis for a re-run of such expert parodies as the *Late Show*'s British Rail commercial.

Oxford's less than unanimous welcome of the appointment of Stephen Sondheim is recorded by Sam Kiley

Making pacific overtures

Stephen Sondheim is getting the red carpet treatment at Oxford. Oxford University's first Professor of Drama has brought unlikely glamour to the concrete avenues of St Catherine's College. New carpets have been fitted and hundreds of pounds have been spent on flowers. It is not yet clear, however, what the leading light of the thinking-man's musical will contribute to drama in Oxford.

The American composer and lyricist will inaugurate his tenure of the professorship, wholly funded to the tune of £1.5 million by the impresario Cameron Mackintosh, with a lecture tomorrow at St Catherine's. But already Oxford students involved in theatre have complained that they cannot gain access to the great man. Indeed, this week he has been running a series of workshops for a dozen specially selected musicians and lyricists, none of whom is an undergraduate at the university.

"It is absolutely disgusting, we have not been consulted about this project at any stage. The workshops were not advertised in the university. We only found out about them by seeing promotions in the national press. What is the point of running courses in Oxford for people who are going to contribute nothing to theatre here?" asked one prominent Oxford thespian.

Over the years, enormous pressure has been put on Oxford to open a department of drama. The move has been resisted on the grounds that students who were not specialists would be consigned to the fringes. In addition, a number of academics, not least in the English department, do not see the study of theatre as a rigorous academic exercise.

The establishment of a Visiting Professorship last year was seen as a masterful compromise. Students



Stephen Sondheim: the composer/lyricist is already hard at work and turning down all social invitations

would be given access to a professional guidance which would channel their remarkable energies more effectively — and provide a focal point for practical study. This would be no bad thing, over the next eight weeks, for instance, Oxford students will stage 48 shows.

But Sondheim is also a busy man. His show *Sunday in the Park with George* is about to go into rehearsal at the Royal National Theatre. *A Little Night Music* is still running at the Piccadilly, and *Assassins* opens later this year on Broadway. For the present, though, he is said to be completely absorbed in his Oxford posting, and refuses to make time for interviews with the media.

The endowment of the chair in

drama is the most spectacular success of the Campaign for Oxford, which hopes to raise £200 million for the university, but one insider says that the money set aside to pay Sondheim during his visits "will be just enough to pay his air-fares", since he will not be in permanent residence.

As far as the students are concerned, that is just the problem. "We want to be able to have a dramatist around for coffee — someone who can tell us we are barking up the wrong tree or that we are on the right track but heading in the wrong direction," said Richard Long, this year's joint president of the OUDS (Oxford University Dramatic Society).

Yet the students may be

complaining too much. The appointment of Sondheim has spawned a lecture series this term at which all students will be able to hear (among others) Sheridan Morley on the history of musical theatre, Andrew Bruce on orchestration, musical direction and stage design, and Mackintosh himself (producer of *Phantom of the Opera* and *Miss Saigon*) on production.

Furthermore, students from all over the country, and at all stages in their education, have been able to apply for admission to Sondheim's lectures and workshops, even if the final choice of participants has been disappointing from a purely Oxford point of view.

"There is a real shortage of good

writing in the theatre, especially the musical theatre. We want to encourage more people to come in and learn about a very specialized art," said Larry Bachmann, the former head of MGM in Europe and Britain, and one of the driving forces behind the project.

Nevertheless, undergraduates genuinely fear that the drama professorship is in danger of becoming no more than a high profile stunt designed to attract attention to the university, while producing few tangible benefits on the theatrical front.

The master of St Catherine's, who is playing host to most of the lectures, Dr Brian Smith, dismissed student criticism as "whingeing". "Sondheim has set himself a prodigious amount of work and has refused almost every social invitation offered," he said.

Furthermore, Bachmann said this week that Sondheim would also like to chat over coffee — probably at the flat in north Oxford bought as a permanent residence for the Professor of Drama. "The professorship is one of the highest honours to be awarded to anyone in the theatre, but we were very lucky to get Sondheim at short notice," he said.

While students might be slow to respond to the arrival of Oxford's first theatre don, there is already intense interest in who will be the second. The names of Peter Brook, Arthur Miller and Neil Simon have already been mentioned — but there is no business like Oxford democracy. All candidates will have to be elected by an appointment board made up of academics and Mackintosh nominees, though not, one assumes, any Oxford students.

DANCE

John Percival

Laurentia
Covent Garden

The Royal Ballet's generosity met an undeserved cool reception from Tuesday night's audience. The occasion was the first of several performances of *La Fille mal gardée*, marking that work's thirtieth anniversary. Being in two acts, this used to be given, when it was new in the repertoire, with another short ballet, but soon someone decided it would look better on its own.

For this run, however, it is being preceded by an extra piece, the "Pas de Six" from *Laurentia*, which Nureyev staged for a Royal Ballet cast in 1964. It had a few more performances, mostly abroad, and has not been given here since 1974.

The purpose of the revival, I assume, is to provide opportunities to several of the company's most gifted young dancers. Nobody would claim it to be a great work, but it does offer 15 minutes

of mostly very difficult and showy dancing.

The choreography is by Vakhtang Chabukiani, a name not familiar to most ballet-goers although they will know his work from several interpretations of *The Corsair* and *La Bayadère*, which are among the highlights of those ballets.

The present sequence is more in the style of the virtuosos dances of *Don Quixote*, having many allusions to Spanish dancing, in view of its original context as a wedding celebration in a long dramatic ballet based on the play *Fuente Ovejuna*. Alexander Krein's music, too, although written in the 1930s, harks back to the manner of 19th-century ballet scores by Minkus or Drigo.

It is, in short, simply an excuse for dancers to show off their skills. Himself a legendary figure in the advancement of male dancing, Chabukiani gives equal prominence to the three men and three women, but the women had the best of it in this opening cast.

Maria Almeida and Viviana Durante, especially, made their solos glitter with sunny bravura and delicately applied Spanish inflections in arm or head. Fiona Chadwick (replacing the injured Darcey Bussell) danced strongly but a bigger, easier jump is needed to make the most of her solo.

The men all looked somewhat under strain, but Phillip Broomhead tackled some devilish steps with much bravado. He and the buoyantly energetic Erroll Pickford and Bruce Sansom all did well enough to help them grimace less and smile more next time.

Nicholas Georgiadis has designed a simple white décor and such pretty dresses for the women that it is scandalous for them to wear shoes looking so drab and shabby. Is this meant to help publicize Covent Garden's new pointe shoes appeal?

Banquet of sumptuous variety

CONCERT

Paul Griffiths

BBC PO/Downes
Barbican Hall
and Radio 3

Tuesday's programme in the BBC Berio series looked the most austere, with two recent orchestral scores flanked by orchestrations of early Mahler songs, but it turned out to be thoroughly hedonistic. It was a banquet of instrumental tone in sumptuous variety, with not an ugly, weak or ill-blended sound to be heard, reminding us that Berio belongs right up there with Berg and Debussy among the magi of the 20th-century orchestra.

Quite why he should have lavished his skills on Mahler arrangements is a bit puzzling, except as an exercise in piety and craftsmanship. Where Mahler himself led decisive cues — either in transcriptions of his own, as with "Abtissin im Sommer", or in evidently "Mahlerian" accompaniments, as with "Zu Strassburg auf der Schanz" — the Berio solution is doubtful.

But where the original lacks that personal signature, Berio's superlative richness, with deep-pile carpets of sustained wind sound, finely variegated string scoring and trickles of harp and glockenspiel, carries Mahler towards the anonymity of Schreker. It was a

postlude of cadenzas and memories, to the original toccata produces not only a richer structure but also a more characteristic one, with strong links to the *Sinfonia* among other pieces.

There is, too, sometimes a subaqueous melancholy grandeur to the echo chamber of larger forces gathered around the solo piano. But all this might have been clearer if Bruno Canino had not removed the lid from the instrument, so that much of his nifty virtuosity disappeared into the air.

The BBC Philharmonic under Edward Downes played bravely, both here and in the superb *Formazioni*, where the brass choir on either side of the platform had a good time. Berio's reinvention of orchestral layout for this piece has its quaintness in the contemporary *Ricorrenza*, where the players of a wind quintet are strung out in a line for music of bounding repetitions that are at once sombre and playful, and where again, as Monday's performance at St John's by the Quintetto Italiano demonstrated, every flower is perfect.

Towards fusing style and content

Simon McBurney, one of the founders of the increasingly successful and popular Théâtre de Complicité, talks to Andrew Lycett about the group's inspiration in music-hall, mime and commedia dell'arte

Comedian Cyril Fletcher was an unlikely early influence on one of Britain's funniest and most innovative theatrical companies. Television was banned in the academic McBurney household in Cambridge. So young Simon McBurney, founder of the Théâtre de Complicité, received his "seminal theatrical education" at the pantomime. The star in the 1960s was invariably Cyril Fletcher who, true to his music-hall background, ended his shows with a harlequinade, or piece of solo clowning.

This drew on *commedia dell'arte*, the popular Italian character comedy which is still found in Punch and Judy but not much else in modern theatre. McBurney would sit and compare notes with Enid Welsford, a family friend and author of *The Fool — His Social and Literary History*. "We'd laugh at the same things," he recalls.

Thus were sown the seeds of Complicité's zany Euro-comedy. If it sounds bookish, the sight of McBurney slithering bug-eyed around a make-believe cemetery in *A Minute Too Late*, the company's extended sketch about death, quickly dispels the notion. The word most often used about Complicité is physical. Its actors use their bodies, the stage, and the inter-relationship between them, to explore the grand universal themes of *commedia dell'arte*: love, death, hunger and money. They even manage to choreograph a textual play, such as Durren-matt's *The Visit*, which is now part of their repertoire, to bring out its underlying concepts of greed and betrayal.

The company was started in 1983 by four graduates of the Jacques LeCoq mime school in Paris. LeCoq remains its principal mentor. With Annabel Arden, a like-minded friend from Cambridge, McBurney had consciously



Zany Complicité: top, Marcello Magni; below, Simon McBurney

sought out the school to get away from the "Footlights Mafia" he had been associated with as an undergraduate. But it is wrong, according to McBurney, to think of the place as a mime school (although it is usually designated that way). "It is a theatre-makers' school. It does not create finished product. It appeals to actors' imaginations."

Movement is central to LeCoq's theatrical vision. For their first year under him, students concentrate on discovering their stage presence. They work on perfecting their Neutral Mask, a technique which "has no expression but which assumes any expression which your body has". Later they "look at a text or a poem and see if you can translate it into a movement of your body".

Then, working in groups, they learn how the way they stand, move and relate to each other in

space can create a mood or a moment. "LeCoq used to be a choreographer," says Marcello Magni, an original company member. "He is interested in the larger movements of life. He sees everything as either pulling or pushing."

After five years of school performances and community projects, Complicité's national breakthrough came towards the end of 1988, when a 15-week season, comprising 12 shows (including an opera, *The Phantom Violin*), played to packed houses at London's Almeida Theatre. The company now shows signs of sticking around.

Its producer, Catherine Reiser, calls on a pool of 20 actors to fulfil a punishing schedule: Zurich this week, Inverness next, with a specially created show for the London International Mime Festival at the Queen Elizabeth Hall on Sunday. Then the company is off to Hong Kong in February and the Perth Festival in March.

The Australians should not imagine they are getting some kind of later-day Monty Python. McBurney, now 32, dismisses the "pleasure of chaotic juxtaposition" as an extension of the Theatre of the Absurd. Complicité, he implies, has more important concerns. "We're not just trying to make people laugh," he says without pomposity. "We're also trying to make a piece of theatre. It goes back to this thing about *commedia*. What they were about was the perfect fusion between style and content."

Théâtre de Complicité is at the Queen Elizabeth Hall on Sunday, 7.45 pm. Its touring production of *The Visit* can be seen at the Eden Court Theatre, Inverness on Jan 20 and 21; Theatre, Haffens, Newton, on Feb 2 and 3; Theatre Royal, Rury St Edmunds on Feb 6; and the Swan Theatre, Stratford-upon-Avon on Feb 7, 8 and 9.

Too little, too shallow

THEATRE
Benedict Nightingale

Oscar Wilde:
Diversions and
Delights
Playhouse

Oscar Wilde, the subject of Donald Sinden's one-man show, would doubtless have honoured the occasion with a paradox along these lines: "There are few more depressing experiences than an evening with a man renowned for his wit."

Wilde's quips were not often wholly fair, and this particular one could be accused of applying mainly to the show's first half. But there are times when one feels one has wandered into a Dictionary of Quotations, got lost, and has no hope of finding the exit.

To an American customs man: "I have nothing to declare except my genius." Of Shaw: "He hasn't an enemy in the world and none of his friends like him." Of the fox-hunting classes: "The unspeakable in full pursuit of the uneatable." Even a friendly first-night audience found it hard to laugh at aphorisms that are not merely familiar, but have stalagmites sprouting from their vowels.

Of course, the mere choice of Wilde for dramatic treatment encourages predictability. Perhaps inevitably, John Gay's script substantially consists of excuses for *bon mots*, scattered anecdotes, and the odd snippet from works, plus a little hedonism and potted aesthetic philosophy. One would have thought that an attempt to explore Wilde's psyche was more dramatically absorbing, more challenging to the not-inconsiderable actor performing him, and better suited to the setting of Paris 1899, shortly before his wretched death.

We have to wait for this until the second half, and then it is too little and too shallow. Part of the problem is that, at a time when the historical Wilde was mottled, blotched and a bit toothless, Sinden looks like an overblown Cupid wearing lipstick or an overgrown Faunlety in a purple cravat. He signals his decline by swigging lots of absinthe, but there is little about him that seems truly marinated, still less ruined.

Indeed, had 19th-century Paris possessed a television station, this Oscar would probably have been doing voice-overs for absinthe ads. Sinden's familiar fruity boom is just a bit too robustly in place. Add some large histrionic gestures, and you can see why it is difficult to believe fully and feelingly in the sad, bad memories when they eventually surface: prison, humiliation, Bosie's treachery, loss, grief, rage.

Wilde was a puer. What is interesting, though, is the pain and conflict beneath; sob and sound off though he may, Sinden has not found the way credibly to combine the outer and the inner, affection and ugliness. This is Oscar re-invented by a latter-day Henry Irving, not the author of *De Profundis*.

Harry Eyres

Duck Variations
Man-in-the-Moon

Here is David Mamet (vintage mid-Seventies) at his most elliptical: two men on a park bench, holding 14 brief conversations about quacking creatures. We know nothing about the two men apart from their names, George S. Aronovitz and Emil Varek, which seem altogether disproportionate in length and significance to the reduced, near-invisible characters they denote.

Dressed with a slight, but not definitive shabbiness, they could be transps, but their demeanour is a little too sprightly for that. After a while, Roy Sampson's Varek reveals that he does have somewhere else, an apartment (less inviting than the park), to go.

Ian Hastings's production, from the Royal Exchange, Manchester, creates an effective contrast between this tall, stiff, slow figure and Terence Beesley's dark, quick, irascible, Aronovitz. To look for depth of character and the roots of a relationship is, however, as always with Mamet, to be disappointed. The conversational fragments, or unintentional canards, move typically from some unpromising reflection about ducks (life of a barnyard duck, the difference between a duck and a pigeon), to an excited interchange, generating heat if not light, before settling back to nothing again.

The two characters reveal certain preoccupations — Aronovitz with the environment, Varek with loneliness — but Mamet's objective is more abstract. We are shown the human need to assert and deny, to make parallels and draw conclusions, even about things which do not matter or about which we know nothing. Varek does at one point see the absurdity of it — "two grown men squabbling about birds!" — but then repeats his stand: "I do differ." This could be either reassuring or quite the reverse; Mamet typically leaves the conclusion open. He even conjures at the end the possibility that all this cultural, historical significance, watching habits of the bird-world. They died, however: "A fitting end to some noble creatures of the sky and a lot of freaks."

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THE ARTS/FILM

Top films this week: double perspective in *A Dry White Season*; *Jesus of Montreal* and *Sisters*, another breakthrough for the Oxford Film Company

Searing apartheid

O h, I'm terribly sorry," says Marlon Brando, with the absurd thin drawl of an ageing Englishman marooned in apartheid-torn Johannesburg, "would you like a cup of tea?"

With Brando's cameo appearance in MGM's *A Dry White Season* (15, Curzon West End), exuberant play-acting suddenly erupts into a film previously stamped with the earnest bleating of Donald Sutherland.

In this adaptation of André Brink's novel, Sutherland plays Ben du Toit, the white South African schoolteacher whose complacency is punctured when his black gardener (and the gardener's son) are tortured to death in the aftermath of a police assault on peacefully demonstrating schoolchildren. Brando—present for two scenes only (there were more originally)—is the jaded civil rights lawyer hired by Du Toit to represent the gardener's wife at the inquest. The year is 1976; we are on the edge of the Soweto uprising.

Despite lurches in tone and some visible patchwork in the script, *A Dry White Season* is an impressive film. Euzhan Palcy, the director from Martinique making her debut in the commercial mainstream, keeps her head above water. We may not find the lyrical passion that burned throughout her award-winning *Rue Cases*

CINEMA
Geoff Brown

Negres, but the brutalities of the South African security police are conveyed with a forceful anger that never once turns shrill.

The script—Colin Welland had a first stab, then Palcy came in with significant amendments—has the virtue over *Cry Freedom* and *A World Apart* of treating apartheid from a double perspective. The agony of Du Toit remains dominant, but we still spend much time watching the gardener's family in Soweto, racked by rage, bewilderment, harassment and eviction.

Luckily, Sutherland becomes more animated as he ferrets out evidence of police brutalities and the affronted white community (his wife and daughter included) give him the cold shoulder. Zakes Mokae acts with fire and dignity as Stanley, the gardener's friend who leads Du Toit to the truth; and Janet Suzman, cast against her own anti-apartheid beliefs as Du Toit's inflexible wife, extracts the best from a truncated role. As for Brando, drawing languidly in a bedraggled suit and half-moon spectacles, it is just as well his role was curtailed: a little eccentric barnstorming goes a long way.



Fear: Zakes Mokae and Donald Sutherland threatened by state terror

Denys Arcand's *Jesus of Montreal* arrives festooned with the special jury prize from last year's Cannes Film Festival and a display of the critic's most glowing adjectives, from "magnificent" downwards.

Viewing the film outside the heat of a hectic festival, the accolades seem a touch over-generous. Persuasively mounted and acted, yes, amusing, certainly; though it does not seem anything obvious in the way Arcand broaches his subject—the conflict between spiritual values and the banal cacophony of daily life.

Before *The Decline of the American Empire* in 1986, the French-Canadian director was only a name for the buff; the satirical treatment of the media circus in his new film was prompted in part by the whirlwind whipped up around Arcand by that elegantly provocative piece. The *Jesus* of the title is an experimental actor, Daniel, blessed with the traditional ascetic look. A Catholic church invites him to stage a passion play on Mont Royal, overlooking Montreal. After gathering disciple-actors from various sources—Mireille is a model, Tony provides dubbed voices for pornographic movies—Daniel launches his production.

The Catholic authorities bristle; the media pounces and the play becomes the flavour of the month. Meanwhile, the dividing line between Daniel and his character begins to blur. At a commercial audition he behaves like Jesus with the Temple money lenders, overturning hi-tech equipment; at the end, he undergoes a form of death and resurrection.

Values: not great but worthwhile

Arcand has grasped hold of a strong, fruitful theme, though by using the Gospel narrative as an expressive tool he constantly runs smack into over-earnest ironies and parallels. The passion play itself, performed peripatetically with much simple skill, is far less controversial than everyone in the film thinks; while too many of Arcand's targets—the gushing media lady jangling her bracelets, the crass world of commercials—are pretty dead ducks. That said, there is much pleasure to be found in the film's visual sheen, ensemble playing and playful intelligence. Go and enjoy; just do not expect something "magnificent".

America knew *Sisters* (15, Cannon Pantown Street) as *Some Girls*, though neither title prepares us for the fairy-tale allure of this unusual comedy from the Oxford Film Company team of Michael Hoffman (director) and Rupert Walters (writer), of whose work you can read more below. The three sisters live in a grand Quebec mansion; Michael, a naive American student (disarmingly portrayed by Patrick Dempsey) visits at Christmas, and falls prey to the family's fey ways. The sisters toy openly with his feelings; their scholarly father works in the nude on a study of Pascal, while their strict, prudish mother tut-tuts.

Whenever the comedy topples into the "romp" category the

mood becomes strained; the eccentricities, too, are occasionally overdone. But whenever Hoffman relaxes the tempo and dwells on the mysteries of his material, *Sisters* casts a bizarre spell. Eugenio Zanetti's clustered Gothic interiors provide a sumptuous backdrop for this tale of tantalizing princesses and a thwarted Prince Charming; and as the fairy godmother figure, Lila Kedrova joins Dempsey in a surprising moment, stripped naked at a dangerous age (70) for a tender communion between Youth and Experience. This off-beat little film could easily slip away unnoticed; do not let it.

It is sad to find a film that fails to give offence when it strains every pore to do so. Possible some ostrich-headed Aunt Edna might be shocked by *Scenes From the Class Struggle in Beverly Hills* (18, Cannon Haymarket); but no-one attracted by the title, or by the past films of its director Paul Bartel, is likely to blush at the hanky-panky taking place in Jacqueline Bisset's Beverly Hills mansion. Bisset (who still seems the Weybridge rose even in unbuttoned fare like this) plays a fading actress, recently widowed; the film describes one feverish weekend of outrageous talk and bed-hopping with her divorced neighbour (the splendidly predatory Mary Woronov), the neighbour's playwright brother and saucy new wife.

The declared aim of Bartel and co-writer Bruce Wagner was to present a hip, radical variation on classic social comedies like *La Règle du Jeu* and *Smiles of a Summer Night*. But the glossy trappings of their chosen Los Angeles enclave seems to have sapped the film's fibre; Bartel—on-screen himself as the "rhinologist" Dr Mo Van de Kamp—views the silly courtships with too genial and indulgent an eye. O satire, where is thy sting?

Welcome Home (15, Odeon Haymarket) is a facile edition to the current cycle of Vietnam dramas and the last film directed by Franklin J. Schaffner, who died last July. Alas, this is no *Patton* or *Planet of the Apes*.

Kris Kristofferson plays a veteran long assumed dead, who surfaces 17 years later after building a new life and family in Cambodia. His original family, tucked away cozily in beautiful Vermont, have a lot of adjusting to do. Isolated scenes explore the domestic conflicts with care, but it only takes a spoonful of Mancini's honeyed music or an overwrought line like "I don't think you've got a corner on the guilt market" for the soap suds to blot out the drama.

Another successful test for Oxford

When the Oxford Film Company logo first splashed across the big screen in 1981 the cynics muttered about precocity and unfair leg-ups.

It was easy to see why. A collection of undergraduates and post-graduate scholars making a film called *Privileged*, while studying at Britain's most patrician university, was bound to irritate. Inevitably the star-spotters clustered, and for once they were right. Three auspicious acting careers were launched by *Privileged*: James Wilby, Hugh Grant and Imogen Stubbs went on to bigger, if not consistently better things.

But the talents behind the camera were not about to sit back and be forgotten, either. Anyone prepared to risk the cat-calls of contemporaries is unlikely to be dinked by the pitfalls of an underfunded British film industry. To date, the like-minded partners, who first gathered in college rooms at Oriel, have pooled their various talents in different combinations to make *Restless Natives*, *Promised Land* and now *Sisters* (reviewed above), which reaches UK screens tomorrow.

In fact, *Sisters* is the first project since *Privileged* to unite the Company's five founders. A beguiling comedy set among the snow-smothered panoramas of Canada and the Christmas-card streets of Montreal and Quebec City, *Sisters* was scripted by Rupert Walters, directed by Mike Hoffman, produced by Rick Stevenson and co-produced by Mark Bentley and Andy Paterson.

There is another key name on the credit roster, however: executive producer, Robert Redford. Redford's Sundance Institute has played a crucial role in lifting the Oxford Film Company (now based in London and LA) out of the mire of British no-can-do, into the world of Hollywood "go". *Promised Land*, which Hoffman scripted and directed, was selected for development by Redford's Utah screen "school", and although the *Sisters* script only spent a week going through the Sundance grooming process, it was a valuable experience for Walters.

"Having intelligent people read



Facing up to love: Patrick Dempsey with sisters Sheila Kelly, Jennifer Connelly and Ashley Greenfield

your script and make comments on it is always valuable. Film scripts rarely end up in great shape without other people reading them," says Walters, adding that Hoffman is "the best story editor I've ever worked with".

Redford's involvement, albeit as a sort of hands-off godfather to the project, was crucial in other ways

too. There were times when the entire project could have slipped out of the fingers of Walters, Hoffman et al, were it not for Redford's prestige. "After Mike had cast Patrick Dempsey, he was offered four times as much money to do another film, so Rick (Stevenson) asked Redford to speak to him," explains Walters.

"To tell him how pleased he was that Patrick was doing this project. He also helped us in our relationship with MGM. You're really never sure when the money on a project might fall through. On *Promised Land* the money from New World dropped out with very little warning, but we were able to get the project refinanced."

In fact, the relationship with MGM proved a mixed blessing. *Sisters* was given the green light by the then head of production, Alan Ladd Jr, who wanted a stream of low-budget pictures to encourage some of the new talents in and outside the US. *Sisters* was the first and last of these. By the time it was completed, Ladd had been unseated in another round of Hollywood's musical chairs, and the new regime did not consider *Sisters* a priority. The film was rapidly pushed towards video.

Walters does not appear to have been wounded by the experience. Already working on his next script, about Greenpeace founder David McTaggart, he looks back on freezing shoot days in the Canadian snow with wry affection. "It is a strange experience being the writer on location," he observes.

"To begin with, you're terribly sought after. Actors flow through your room, all of them pestlepinning for their characters to become more important. But by the end of the shoot you are one of the people hanging around talking to the driver."

Oscar Moore

VIDEO BOX
Geoff Brown

A weekly selection of films recently released on video. The year refers to the date of first release, or in the case of television films, of first broadcast.

DEEPSTAR SIX (Guild, 15): No prizes for guessing the outcome when an enraged sea monster attacks a research team. Deep-sea holism from the brain responsible for *Friday the 13th*, Sean Cunningham; the less-than-lustrous cast features Nancy Everhard and Greg Evigan. 1989.

GO TOWARD THE LIGHT (Pearl, PG): Sombre TV movie about a loving family facing the death from AIDS of their nine-year-old hemophiliac son. Familiar faces ease the pain: Piper Laurie, Ned Beatty, Richard Thomas and Linda Hamilton. 1988.

HEARTBREAK HOTEL (Touchstone, 15): Chris Columbus, writer-director of the engaging *Adventures in Babysitting*, comes a cropper with this weak-kneed fantasy about an Ohio teenager (bland Charlie Schlatter) kidnapping Elvis Presley to brighten the life of his scarily mother (Tuesday Weld). David Keith, looking nothing like the King, does his best in trying circumstances. 1988.

HOMESBOY (Braveworld, 15): Morose Mickey Rourke vehicle, from his own story about a burnt-out boxer given one more chance. Rourke skouches and broods to his heart's content; Christopher Walken, as a petty thief who sucks him into crime, provides welcome light relief. Flashily directed by cameraman Michael Sarasin. 1989.

THE IRON TRIANGLE (Medusa, 18): The thinking punter's Vietnam movie, balancing the viewpoints of a war-weary US officer (Beau Bridges) and an idealistic Vietcong guerrilla (Liem Whytey) who grow to respect each other. Directed by Eric Weston. 1989.

LADY IN WHITE (Virgin, 15): Polished horror tale which delivers a fair quota of authentic chills, written and directed by independent film-maker Frank LaLoggia. With Lukas Haas as an inquisitive small-town teenager pursuing a supernatural murder mystery. 1989.

SCUM (Odyssey, 18): "The film they tried to ban!... Some of the toughest scenes ever released on video..." Inside the cassette cover's hyperbole lies a hyperbolic film—a shrill guided tour through a Borstal hell which tries to make a hero of the young brute (Ray Winstone) determined to be king of the jungle. Written by Roy Minton, directed by Alan Clarke, banned by the BBC as a *Play for Today*, filmed in 1979 for cinema release.

TAP (RCA/Columbia, PG): Forget if you can the hoary plot about an ex-con with tap-dancing in his blood: concentrate instead on the spellbinding footwork of Gregory Hines and assorted old-timers with a nearly-vanished dance form. With Sammy Davis Jr, written and directed by Nick Castle. 1989.

Angela Brooks talks to actress Gila Almgör, about the new-found sensitivity in Israeli cinema, soon on show in London



Gila Almgör: a biographical account of coming to terms with reality

You could persuasively argue that Israeli film-makers—not noted for cinematic virtuosity—have traded one set of stereotypes for another. Certainly swaggering, Uzi-toting heroes are scarce at the First Israeli Film Season mounted by the Spiro Institute at the Everyman Cinema in Hampstead, starting on January 21.

Instead, the three-day programme offers an abundance of conscience-plagued, soul-searching types, caught red-handed in acts once anathema to your hardy sabra: one of them is nursing his sanity after one of the worst battles of the Lebanese war (*Burning Memory*); another tentatively forges a relationship with a Palestinian (Night Movie); and in *Behind the Walls* an Israeli hood joins hands with a convicted PLO terrorist to lead a prison uprising.

Nitza Spiro, director of the institute, says that the season's films offer an alternative to the "brutal, careless and hard-headed" image of Israelis here. "I can't say that they are all great films," she says. "But I think the subject and the spirit sometimes transcends the technical and financial limitations."

At least one film to which these candid reservations clearly do not apply is the exquisite *Summer of Aviva*, last year's Silver Bear

Letting feelings flow free

winner at the Berlin Film Festival, which will open in London on March 9 and in BFI regional theatres from April.

The film is set in Israel after the Second World War and recounts one summer in the life of a 10-year-old girl and her mother, a partisan and Polish concentration camp survivor who lost her husband and family in the camps, and was driven insane by the experience.

The film is largely autobiographical, based on the book of the same name by Gila Almgör, one of Israel's foremost actresses, who produced and co-stars, playing the part of her mother.

Unlike the character of Henya in the film, Almgör's mother was not a partisan, nor was she in a concentration camp, "but she believed she was when she had her attacks". She would scribble numbers in blue ink on her arms and then run out into the streets baring them and screaming things in Polish, and the children would run after her, taunting her.

Large chunks of Almgör's childhood were spent in orphanages while her mother was in hospital; she never knew her

father. "My mother told me he was handsome, that he waited well and he had big black eyes."

Almgör's own brush with a nervous breakdown a few years ago was the spur to produce the book. She found herself in her mid-forties, with everything going her way, sinking into an abyss where all she could do was cry.

One morning the actress's daughter solemnly scrutinized her mother's face. "She then said: 'When I get back from school, don't cry any more.'"

"I felt so sorry for her and so frightened of myself. I closed the door, went to her room, rummaged around for a notebook and started to write."

The result was an instant best seller, now, in its 10th edition, required reading on the schools' syllabus.

Says Almgör: "In the early years in Israel, the message was to turn your back on the past. We had to devote ourselves to creating the beautiful, the new, the strong. We were different. We were the new Jews."

"Some came and pretended to build a new life after having lost

their children and husbands, wives and parents. They came here thinking they would start from scratch. There was never time for mourning, for working out grief—so many of them had only postponed their agony and cracked up when their children have left for the Army."

Almgör feels that 40 years on, Israeli film makers are at last coming to grips with the past and wrestling with the political, social and religious issues of the present. "Not so long ago, directors typically would point their cameras at, say, a Jewish Moroccan family, a Polish Jewish family, give them a couple of cheap ethnic jokes—and they would call it a comedy."

Now they have smart, blue-eyed, blond Arabs and dense, wild-haired, glass-eyed Israelis.

Almgör worries that the pendulum may have swung too far. But she comforts herself with the belief that they are at least on the right track.

The Israeli film season is at the Everyman Cinema (01-435 1525) on January 21, 25 and 28. *Summer of Aviva* opens at the Phoenix, East Finchley, on March 9, and the Ritzy Theatre, Brixton, on March 23.

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Executive Editor
David Brewerton

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Market report, page 28

Lookers up to £6.8m

Lookers, the Manchester car dealer, made profits of £6.83 million in the year to September, a rise of 8 per cent, on sales of 14 per cent up at £309 million. Earnings per share were 2 pence ahead at 25.5p. A final dividend of 4.2p, up 14 per cent, is proposed, leaving the total 8.5p up at 6.2p.

Mr Ken Martindale, the chairman, said that the start to the current year was disappointing and interim profits would be reduced. The £14.7 million acquisition of SMAC, the southern dealer, last August had been pitched at 13 times earnings, so some dilution was inevitable.

Temps, page 24

Barbour builds

Barbour Index, the construction industry information publisher, increased pre-tax profits by a quarter to £2.73 million in the six months to end-October. Turnover rose 23 per cent to £6.27 million. The interim dividend is 2p, up 60 per cent. Temps, page 24

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Canada \$	70.90	70.90	70.90
Denmark Kr	13.66	13.66	13.66
Finland Mk	5.94	5.94	5.94
France Fr	6.55	6.55	6.55
Germany DM	2.36	2.36	2.36
Greece Dr	340.75	340.75	340.75
Hong Kong \$	7.76	7.76	7.76
India Rupee	25.36	25.36	25.36
Indonesia Rp	1336.20	1336.20	1336.20
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Norway Kr	13.76	13.76	13.76
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Spain Ptas	166.37	166.37	166.37
Sweden Kr	10.46	10.46	10.46
Switzerland Fr	2.00	2.00	2.00
Turkey Lira	4.50	4.50	4.50
USA \$	1.65	1.65	1.65
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Lonrho in South African platinum merger

By Matthew Bond

Lonrho, the industrial conglomerate, is to merge its South African mining subsidiary, Western Platinum Ltd, with the Karoo Mine owned by Impala Platinum Holdings, of South Africa.

Impala will acquire a 25 per cent stake in Western Platinum. It will also get 27 per cent of future total earnings of the merged Western and Karoo interests and of earnings of Lonrho's Eastern Platinum.

Rumours that Lonrho was to sell

Western Platinum have lifted its share price in recent months. But it was only in the past few days that General Mining emerged as front-runner. Lonrho shares finished 6.5p down on the day at 314 1/2p.

The 25 per cent stake would be worth about £74 million if valued on an historical cost basis, Lonrho said.

Analysts had been forecasting a value of about £300 million for an outright sale of the subsidiary.

Management of the merged op-

erations will rest with the majority shareholder, Lonrho, but Impala will have equal representation on the board.

Lonrho said that it was impossible to calculate the value of the merged operation because there has been no assessment of the absolute value of the mines.

The company said that the merger would help the development of the Karoo mine, which is currently being commissioned and shares a common boundary

with Western Platinum. It said that Karoo had extensive low-cost recoverable reserves.

Impala said that the merger would make it cheaper to mine and refine ore from Karoo and Western Platinum. The two mines have a shared boundary and common infrastructure.

Operated alone, the Karoo mine, which is in the Western Transvaal, was not expected to become cash-positive until late 1993. The combined operation should achieve

this from the end of 1990, Impala said. The deal should have a beneficial effect on Impala's funding of Karoo and the group's earnings per share.

In 1988, Western Platinum produced 274,000 ounces of platinum.

Platinum from South Africa accounts for 80 per cent of the Western world's supplies.

Last year, demand for platinum fell as Japanese investors deserted the market.

In recent weeks, the platinum

price has been rising with the buoyant gold price.

There is expected to be growing demand for the metal for use in catalytic converters to reduce car exhaust fumes. Regulations made by the European Commission last year are expected to prompt European car companies to increase their buying by 55,000 ounces to 300,000 ounces a year. Worldwide, the car industry needs about 1.45 million ounces a year, more than 40 per cent of total demand.

Fall in surplus raises fear of tax increases

By Rodney Lord, Economics Editor

The prospect of higher taxes in the Budget loomed larger with news of a sharp fall in Britain's budget surplus. The surplus for December was only £400 million — about £2 billion less than the City was expecting.

For the first nine months of the fiscal year, the surplus totalled £3.7 billion, compared with £8.7 billion in the same period of the previous year.

Economists rapidly reduced estimates of the surplus for the year as a whole and are now mostly forecasting an outturn below the Autumn Statement forecast of £12.5 billion.

Warburg reduced its forecast from £12 billion to £10

billion, Shearson Lehman from £11 billion to £10 billion and Greenwell Montagu from £14 billion to £12 billion.

In the medium-term financial strategy set out in the last Budget red book, the Government pencilled in a surplus of £11 billion, including scope for tax cuts of £1 billion, for 1990-91. To the extent that the surplus looks likely to fall short of that, Mr John Major, the Chancellor, may want to consider tax increases.

The date of this year's Budget will be revealed during the autumn statement debate next Tuesday.

However, senior Treasury officials stressed yesterday that they were sticking to their previous forecast. While acknowledging that a lower than expected surplus, if it were to occur, would affect budget decisions, one said: "We are just ahead of our peak tax collecting season; it would be most unwise to draw conclusions from one set of figures."

The Treasury said there were three reasons for the low surplus in December. The green dowry for the water companies reduced privatization proceeds by more than £1 billion to about £500 million.

Local authority borrowing was considerably higher than last year at about £800 million. Higher payments to the EC had reduced the surplus on central government's own account to £1 billion.

The gilts market took the news badly, losing about a point. The pound finished the day down 0.5 on the exchange index at 87.8. It closed in London down 0.57 cents against the dollar at \$1.6495 and down 2.21 pence against the mark at DM2.7852.

Interest rates continued to firm in the money markets and the three month rate rose 1/4 percentage point to 15 1/4 per cent.

The dollar dipped about a penny on the US trade figures but recovered in later trading in London to close 0.15 pence down at DM1.6885. Against the yen, it rose 0.25 yen to ¥145.45.

● The Institute of Directors has called on Mr Major to include £6 billion of tax cuts in the Budget. It proposes that 1p should be cut off the basic rate of income tax and 2p off the higher rate.

Surprise as US deficit widens to \$10.5bn

From Martin Fletcher, Washington

The US trade deficit unexpectedly widened to \$10.5 billion (\$6.34 billion) in November, up 2.4 per cent from October's disappointing \$10.25 billion and the worst performance of 1989.

The figure confounded analysts, who had predicted a slight improvement on the October figure to \$9.6 billion, and Wall Street opened slightly lower on the news.

Commerce Department officials blamed a 45-day strike at the Boeing aircraft company which contributed to a sharp

2.7 per cent fall in US exports to \$30.2 billion, the lowest since last March. Imports fell only 1.4 per cent to \$40.7 billion from October's record \$41.3 billion.

The department now expects the total 1989 trade deficit to reach \$11 billion. That is down on 1988's \$11.8 billion, which was itself a 22 per cent reduction on 1987, but economists are pessimistic about further progress in cutting the deficit in 1990. They see little sign of a diminishing demand for imports.

'Mismanagement' claim at Diamond

By Melinda Wittstock

A draft report by Touche Ross, the accountant, into Diamond Group Holdings, the Glasgow mechanical breakdown insurance broker whose newly-quoted shares have been suspended since October, blames its difficulties on mismanagement but contains no evidence of wrongdoing.

Mr Derek Diamond, the chief executive, who has blamed the as yet unreported losses on an unexpectedly high level of claims and operating costs, said yesterday that the Touche report cites mismanagement for the slide from £1.2 million 1988 profits into an interim loss estimated at close to £2 million. Interim results were due in October.

The report from Touche, whose insolvency team was called in by Allied Provincial,

Diamond's broker, to carry out an investigation independent from Arthur Andersen & Co, the company's auditor, will be made public next week. In London yesterday, Mr Diamond said Lloyd's has confirmed it will pay all the claims.

He put much of the losses down to an agreement signed in early July with Diamond's underwriters in which premium rates were increased by up to 50 per cent after an unexpected rise in the number of claims.

Diamond, whose mechanical breakdown insurance business for second-hand cars accounts for 76 per cent of its profits, expects to complete the sale of two troubled Yorkshire businesses next week after two months of negotiations.

LVMH up 45% on eve of court verdict

By Neil Bennett

M Bernard Arnault, the head of Moët Hennessey Louis Vuitton, has revealed a 45 per cent profits rise at the French luxury goods group two days before a court verdict which could decide the future of his control of the group.

Net profits at LVMH rose more than 45 per cent to Fr2.9 billion (£305 million) in 1989, beating the company's forecasts. Shares in Guinness, which holds 24 per cent, rose 20p to 664p, while City analysts increased profits forecasts for Guinness by £35 million to £670 million.

Group sales rose 20 per cent to Fr19.6 billion. The spirits division's turnover rose 24 per cent to Fr5.07 billion thanks to volume growth of 8 per cent. The slowest performer was the champagne division with a rise in volume of only 1

per cent, and sales of Fr5.17 billion, up 6 per cent.

Ironically, the best performer is the Louis Vuitton luggage, where turnover rose by a third to Fr4.70 billion. For the past year M Arnault has been waging a bitter struggle with M Henry Racamier, the head of Louis Vuitton, over the control of the group.

This struggle comes to a head tomorrow when the Paris commercial court gives its verdict on an action to annul a block of warrants held by M Arnault and Guinness.

If the shares are annulled, M Arnault's grip on the group may be weakened enough for M Racamier to launch a challenge to his leadership, even though M Arnault still has the support of Guinness and the Moët and Hennessey families.

Comment, page 25

Aiming for a quality market: John McEwan awaits the well-heeled at the new Kensington Thomas Cook branch yesterday

Thomas Cook woos the bespoke traveller

By Derek Harris
Industrial Editor

Thomas Cook, the retail travel agency chain and foreign exchange dealer which is a Midland Bank subsidiary, has opened in Kensington High Street, West London, the first of its new agency outlets aimed at exploiting changes in the travel market.

The refurbishment of 250 outlets, out of its total high

street chain of 340, will cost £18 million. The concept is four stores in one, a feature being a separate lounge area of armchairs and potted plants where by appointment the more sophisticated traveller can be attended by experienced "travel counsellors" to create an individual bespoke holiday.

A flight centre will be aimed at finding the best air ticket deals including the below-

tariff tickets more associated in the past with bucket shops.

Cook is intent on securing the biggest possible slice of the growth sectors in an otherwise badly-hit holidays market. Foreign package bookings for next summer are down by at least a third compared with the same time last year.

But long-haul destinations are a thriving sector and, with many more people growing out of package holidays, the

bespoke holiday is increasingly being sought, said Mr John McEwan, managing director of Thomas Cook Retail.

Mr McEwan says his division will turn in a big profit increase for 1989 when its competitors are expected to record losses. Cook already draws a quarter of its sales from flights only — reflecting bespoke holidays — and another quarter from long-haul destination holidays.

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Former ConsGold chief hired as adviser in Sea Containers bid

Agnew resurfaces in unfamiliar waters

By Martin Waller

Mr Rudolph Agnew, chairman and chief executive of Consolidated Gold Fields before its takeover last year by Hanson, has re-emerged in an unexpected quarter, as consultant to the Temple consortium which this week finally agreed the purchase of a large chunk of Sea Containers.

But Mr Agnew denied reports that he would be taking over the chairmanship of Sealink, the British ferries service which is to be sold to Stena, the Swedish shipping group, as part of the deal.

"I don't really know very much about shipping," he said.

Mr Agnew has been acting as an adviser to Temple,



Rudolph Agnew: experience jointly owned by Stena and

Tiphook, the British container group, since an approach from the Swedes. He concedes the reason for the approach was his experience in protracted

takeovers. ConsGold finally succumbed to an agreed offer from Hanson nine months after the initial hostile approach from Minoro. Last week Mr Agnew was voted on to the Hanson board as a non-executive director.

The Sea Containers battle has already matched ConsGold in duration, even without the benefit of a reference to the Monopolies and Mergers Commission. It has, however, been spun out by endless and expensive legal skirmishing in the US and Bermudan courts.

Mr Agnew was one of the potential directors of Sea Containers to be proposed, as a hostile move, by Temple at a forthcoming annual meeting.

But there has been no firm job offer from the Swedes following the agreed deal hammered out with Sea Containers this week, which should also see the container operation pass to Tiphook.

"I've done the task they asked me to do," said Mr Agnew.

Any further role, perhaps as a British director on the Stena board to keep an eye on its vastly-expanded assets in this country, "is up for future discussion. I would look forward to it but I've no expectations right now. Stena themselves are rightly not counting any chickens."

Sea Containers' board is meeting today to discuss the Temple offer.

Managers share £22m as Japanese buy UPI

By Derek Harris, Industrial Editor

UPI, the specialist bearings maker which was the subject of a £73.5 million management buy-in two years ago, is being acquired for £145 million by Nippon Seiko KK, the second-largest bearing maker in the world.

The deal means 40 UPI managers, led by Mr Alan Bowkett, chief executive and leader of the buy-in from the former RHP group, share £22 million. They have held 15 per cent of the equity, the rest being with City institutions.

UPI, based in Newark, Nottinghamshire, claims 15 per cent of the world market in specialist bearings and is world leader in aerospace applications.

In the year ended last

September, UPI had sales of £128.9 million and a pre-tax profit of £19.7 million. It employs 3,800 people.

UPI's management team stays in place — most are on three-year contracts — and UPI will continue to run as a separate entity, even though NSK has a factory at Peterlee, County Durham, which employs 700. But there is no product overlap because NSK is in big volume bearings for items such as washing machines.

Together, NSK and UPI account for only 5 per cent of the continental European bearings market and NSK wants to increase this. It is planning fresh investment, especially in UPI, and in a

research and development facility based in Britain. World leader SKF has 30 per cent of the European market.

Mr Sadao Hirano, senior managing director of NSK, said: "We are very happy with this company and the way it is run. We have complementary strengths and we believe that together we can create a new force in the European bearing industry with the UK as the main manufacturing base."

Mr Bowkett said: "One option would have been to go for a public flotation towards the end of 1990, and although it would not doubt have been reasonably successful, we would have faced the problem of being a medium-sized company in the engineering sector

that was adopting a long-term growth strategy. If, at some point, short-term earnings had not been up to the mark, we could have been vulnerable to a hostile takeover bid from somebody we might not have been happy about. This way we are dealing with people with a similar outlook and we get access to the best technology."

UPI has been working with NSK closely since the buy-in and expects the deal to improve its chances of supplying the British factories of Japanese car makers with its specialist automotive bearings.

Mr Bowkett also sees the chance of import substitution, as 68 per cent of bearings sold in Britain are now imported.

News Corp promotes senior executives

Mr Rupert Murdoch, chief executive of The News Corporation, the international media group which owns The Times through News International in Britain, has promoted four senior executives to newly-created responsibilities reporting directly to him in a strengthened central group management team.

Mr William O'Neill, formerly managing director of News International, becomes executive vice-president for human resources; Mr John Evans, formerly president of Murdoch Magazines, becomes executive vice-president for development; Mr Lawrence Kessler, formerly a vice-president and general counsel of News America, takes the same responsibilities for the worldwide group; and Mr Jeffrey Leist, formerly a vice-president and treasurer, becomes executive vice-president for administration.

The four have a combined 63 years' service with the group. In addition, Mr David DeVoe has been appointed deputy to Mr Richard Sarazen, the group's chief financial officer.

Mr Murdoch said: "These changes are necessary to create greater depth in our executive group to deal with our intensified programme of international expansion and to cope with the rapid development of new and complex forms of media."

"All these appointments are made internally. They are executives who have grown with News Corporation."

Hambros link with Dutch in M&A deal

By Neil Bennett

Hambros, the merchant bank, has signed a deal with Amsterdam-based Investingsbank, a Dutch investment bank, to co-operate on merger and acquisitions work.

This is the latest addition to Hambros' European network of partners. It is also negotiating with a bank in Austria.

Sir Michael Butler, Hambros' director in charge of European expansion, revealed almost 5 per cent of the bank's shares are held by Mitsui Bank, the Japanese bank.

The European network enabled Hambros to participate in four deals worth up to £200 million last year. Hambros and AIB hope to reveal their first deal, worth 20 million guilders (£6.25 million),

Soft commissions hold key for independents

The demise of the name Citicorp Scrimgeour Vickers is another reminder of the decline of share research in the City — as perceived at least by a number of institutions. A decade ago, they rated Scrimgeour as the top research house, while Vickers da Costa was highly regarded in its Japanese speciality.

The main institutional complaint is that objectivity may have been a casualty of the securities groups' struggle to grab limited business or may serve the books of marketmakers and brokers who take their own positions. That danger may have been exaggerated. In anecdotal terms, the findings of the report into County NatWest's handling of Blue Arrow are matched by a bank share analyst who recommended a sale of his parent company's shares. But confidence has been dented.

This can only help the new soft commission brokers, such as Hoenig & Co, who sell fund managers bought-in services, which can include research, for fixed guaranteed commissions. Thus far, however, there has been a dearth of independent researchers of stature — despite the flowering of one or two in the early seventies. In the equities field, Jeremy Uton's Metropolitan General Investment, which sells its specialized smaller companies research to several top investment groups, is the most prominent. Metropolitan is now trying to sell directly to private clients via a monthly magazine.

There is much more on offer in economic forecasting, usually aimed at gilt-edged and bond markets, where

Stephen Lewis, formerly of Phillips & Drew, pioneered the trend to independence and has been followed by Tim Congdon, formerly of Messels. But the more redundancies there are among well-regarded equity analysts, and there have been several recently, the more one-man independents there will be.

The soft commission brokers are likely to be a key to success in selling their services. The Securities & Investments Board is mulling over about 50 submissions on its consultative paper on soft commission arrangements, which upheld the practice but suggested strict limits and full disclosure. Final rules may not be issued for two months.

The main arguments are over whether it is fair to restrict soft commissions to 25 per cent of a fund manager's business and exactly what should be defined as soft commission — since full service brokers often have similar but slightly less explicit arrangements with institutions. There are undoubtedly dangers and temptations, since a prime appeal of soft commissions is that fund managers can charge the cost of many services direct to their funds, rather than having to pay them out of management fees.

But the "unbundling" of services is surely going to expand. BZW, for instance, has prepared for this by setting up its own separate soft commission broking company. More houses are likely to do the same. For better or worse, the growth of independent research and soft commissions seem inextricably intertwined.

Velvet touch for Guinness

If the market is concerned about the guerrilla warfare going on in Paris over the future of LVMH, there was not the slightest sign of it yesterday. Guinness has sunk more than £1 billion into the French luxury goods group in exchange for its 24 per cent stake, and stands to suffer if a court ruling goes against it in Paris tomorrow. But yesterday market-makers had eyes only for the brilliant performance of LVMH during 1989.

LVMH indicated a provisional 45 per cent rise in profits to about £305 million even though the final figures will not be available for some time.

Guinness shares responded with a 20p rise to 664p, even though the advance at LVMH was no more than the better broking firms were expecting. At the heart of this positive response is relief that the battle going on inside LVMH has not affected its trading performance one jot.

Perhaps surprisingly, the star performance emerged from Louis Vuitton, the up-market leather goods manufacturer. Turnover climbed 33 per cent. The group's portfolio of perfume brands, surely the envy of all its competitors,

grew almost 20 per cent and was evenly spread between Christian Dior, Givenchy and Roc.

Cognacs and spirits produced a 24 per cent sales gain from no more than an 8 per cent rise in volumes, suggesting that LVMH has successfully marketed its top of the range product at premium prices. Champagne sales, where volumes were static, provided the only dull spot.

When they arrive in audited form, these figures will mean a £105 million contribution to Guinness's trading profit of about £750 million in 1989. LVMH should produce close to £140 million in the current year.

In fact, the gains are greater than they appear. For the group's distributors are finding tremendous benefits to sales of its own products through the joint ventures with the French. Few sales teams can offer a package of brands like Hennessy, Dom Perignon, Moët & Chandon, Gordons, Tanqueray, Johnnie Walker and Dewars. Guinness earnings could grow by 20 per cent for the next three years and its shares, trading at barely a premium to the market on 1990 profits, are well worth buying.

Trilion switches to £1.1m profit

By Matthew Bond

Nine months without any London studios explains the sharp fall in operating profits reported by Trilion, the television group which brought American football and Sambo wrestling to British television screens.

Operating profits fell from £784,000 to £285,000 in the year to last September, with turnover down from £16.1 million to £13.6 million.

The fall followed the group's enforced move from its London Docklands studios and the delay in finding new premises.

However, interest earned on the £25 million it received from the sale, together with a £546,000 exceptional profit from the sale of its 9.5 per cent stake in Broadcast Communications, helped the group to a £1.13 million pre-tax profit, compared with a £602,000 loss in 1988.

The company also returns to the dividend list with an 0.5p per share distribution.

After a year of great upheaval, Mr Ian Reed, the chairman, was confident about the group's future.

He said: "We have spent the last two years restructuring the company to produce a winning formula for the nineties."

The £25 million received from Olympia & York, the Docklands developer, has wiped out borrowings which last year stood at £16 million.

A further £5 million was spent to buy the former Lee International film studios in Wembley, which it has now converted to use for television.

The remaining cash is earmarked for acquisitions.



Confident after a year of upheaval: Ian Reed, the chairman of Trilion, yesterday

Euromoney to be traded in London

By Jeremy Andrews

Trading in the shares of Euromoney Publications, the financial magazine publisher, is to move from Luxembourg to London on Monday following a £3.5 million placing which enables the company to meet the Stock Exchange's listing requirements.

The shares came equally from the family holdings of Sir Patrick Sergeant, Euromoney's chairman, and the Daily Mail and General Trust, but the placing price of 350p was below the 460p obtained when

the company was floated in 1986.

Euromoney has built up a range of activities, including conferences and electronic databases, but its main money-spinner remains its flagship magazine. This was founded in 1969 by Sir Patrick, who was then City editor of the Daily Mail, and is exceptionally profitable for a monthly title with a circulation of 28,000.

When the company was floated in 1986, Associated Newspapers had been unwilling to allow its holding to fall

sufficiently to meet the Stock Exchange's requirement that 25 per cent of the equity be in free hands. Now, however, the Exchange has agreed to admit Euromoney to the official list even though only 21.5 per cent will be on the market.

The placing has cut Daily Mail and General Trust's stake to 76.1 per cent, but the holding of Sir Patrick's family has been halved to 486,000 shares, or 2.4 per cent of the total. The placing price compares with 368p indicated in Luxembourg beforehand.

Sir Patrick said that as the

company served the international capital markets, it had wanted to show its faith in them by becoming a euro-equity. However, certain UK pension funds had not been able to become shareholders while it was not listed in London.

Although Euromoney had built up £18 million cash by last September, the proprietors of some businesses it was interested in acquiring wanted shares for personal tax reasons. Sir Patrick said that four possible acquisitions were being studied.

New slot for a hot shot

Undeterred by recent job losses in the Square Mile, UBS Securities, the Wall Street equivalent of UBS Phillips & Drew, has just beefed up its coverage of UK and European equities within the United States by poaching one of the top teams in the business from rival investment bank Morgan Stanley. American broker Kevin Plunkett, described as a "Wall Street hot shot," has just resigned as the managing director responsible for worldwide equity trading at Morgan Stanley to join UBS, where he will be given the similar title of managing director. "He will be responsible for all international equities trading which effectively means all non-dollar stocks," says Geoffrey Redman-Brown, of UBS Phillips & Drew. And Plunkett is bringing with him his two-man team, comprising Michael Steiner and Gerry Kenally, both of whom will join the international sales desk in New York. "The addition of this respected team should cement our position as the best European equities firm in the United States by, in particular, raising our profile in the American Depository Receipts market," says Hector Sants, head of UBS P&D and the man responsible for European equities worldwide. Sants himself once ran the New York international equities business — until he returned to London two years ago to assume his present job from Dr Paul Neill.

THE TIMES CITY DIARY

Writing off the wall

In accordance with American corporate attitudes towards the power of positive thinking, a huge sign, measuring three feet by at least 10 feet, used to hang down over the dealing floor at Citicorp Scrimgeour Vickers in its luxurious Thames-side offices in Southwark. It was based on the firm's so-called "mission,"

which was designed to encourage its workers to improve their performance. And in big letters it read, "CSV: The best, most exciting and most successful institutional equity firm." It was removed from the dealing room about 10 days ago by a group of junior employees — who apparently no longer believed it.

Rocket man

Mark Tapley, the newly appointed managing director of asset management group London and Bishopsgate, is affectionately known as the "rocket scientist." Tapley, aged 43, was previously a director of equities within Shearson Lehman's global asset management division. But further back, after graduating from

Oxford, he signed up for ICI's graduate trainee scheme to learn computer programming, systems engineering and salesmanship. It was during this time that he earned his nickname — when he was seconded to a Russian nuclear physics research laboratory where he spent nine weeks helping to send atoms round a circuit several kilometres long.

Barclaywhere

Barclays Bank has been seeking publicity in the Northern Ireland media for its new "nationwide" over-the-counter share dealing scheme, urging investors to pop into their local branch to sell British Gas shares at low commission. Barclays chairman Gavin Oldham waxes on about the convenience of dealing at a local branch. Perhaps he should be told that Barclays does not have one branch in Northern Ireland and the service can thus hardly be described as nationwide.

Big-ticket team swaps

An entire three-man project finance team at Schroders, the merchant bank, has just joined Babcock & Brown, an international leasing company, and a subsidiary of USM-quoted York Trust. The most senior is Nicolas Lethbridge, who was project finance director, and his two colleagues are Norman Crowe and Peter Pollak. Babcock's activities in project finance in both the US and Japan are well established, and the arrival of Lethbridge and his team means they can now expand into Britain. "Their expertise in project financing will complement our existing big-ticket lease financing operations," says Peter Vardigan, Babcock & Brown's chief executive. At Schroders, this they worked on projects like the Channel Tunnel, the Dartford Crossing and the Second Severn Crossing.

It is certainly going to be all change for the directors of hotel group Norfolk Capital in their bid to fight off the unwanted attentions of Peter Tyrie and his Balmoral group. Norfolk had booked space for 150 at the New Connaught Rooms for its egn on January 29, but it has now decided that considerably more of its 21,000 shareholders will attend than originally anticipated and thus, although the meeting will be officially convened at the NCR, it will then be adjourned to the more spacious London Press Centre — a good 10-minute walk away. Bring an umbrella...and stout shoes.

Carol Leonard

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STOCK MARKET

Dealers on red alert as 'mega-bid' talk grows

Dealers placed themselves on red alert last night, convinced that an important deal is about to be announced - possibly today - which would help to boost the market's recovery.

Details remain sketchy, but several securities houses have taken the decision this week to go long and buy the market - despite persistent nervousness about short-term prospects. Midland Bank was reckoned to be buying the FT-SE 100 index futures on behalf of a number of institutions.

This sort of aggressive support has enabled the London stock market to put up a much better performance than expected against the background of setbacks on Wall Street and Tokyo.

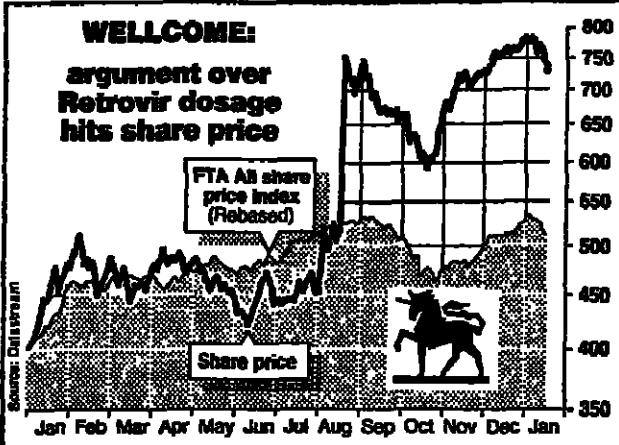
Some brokers are talking

Polly Peck climbed 12p to 415p, helped by a recommendation from Kinst & Aitken, the stockbroker, to switch out of Geest, up 1p to 265p. The boost of selling that has dogged Polly Peck's share price in recent weeks also appears to have come to an end.

about the possibility of another mega-bid being launched. Once again, the name of Hansson, with its £15 billion war-chest was being mentioned. Shares in the group have been a firm market of late, adding another 3p to 231p last night.

British Land, unchanged at 405p, also features strongly. There was talk this week that one merchant bank had been approached by a third party about launching a bid for the company.

The speculation only added fuel to a much-needed rally, which left the FT-SE 100 closing at its best levels of the day with a rise of 24.8 points to 2,373.9. Steadier overnight performances in Tokyo and New York settled nerves. But turnover remained low, with just 429 million shares traded. Fund managers remained selective and were reckoned to be taking a long-term view of the market rather than looking to make a quick profit. The narrower FT index of top 30 shares advanced 19.6 to 1,895.3.



Government securities finished the session nursing falls of almost £1 at the longer end, upset by a disappointing set of Public Sector Borrowing Requirement (PSBR) figures and news of a larger US trade deficit.

Among leaders, rises were seen in BAT Industries, 8p to 823p, ICI, 9p to £11.48, and Cable and Wireless, 22p to 560p.

The Wellcome share price continued to lose ground after Tuesday's annual meeting, at which it was revealed that the US Food & Drug Administration had urged the company to halve the recommended dosage for Retrovir, its anti-Aids drug. Retrovir's success has been reflected in the Wellcome share price and brokers

such as the pharmaceutical research team at Barclays de Zoete Wedd, are convinced it holds the key to future earnings growth.

Wellcome seems unperturbed by the FDA's comments and has already reduced dosage levels in order to minimize the risk of toxicity in the drug.

Scottish & Newcastle slipped another 2p to 340p as the story continued to do the rounds that Elders IXL, the Australian brewer, was about to sell its 23 per cent holding at about 32p. Last year, Elders was ordered to reduce its holding to below 10 per cent after its bid for S&N was blocked by the Monopolies and Mergers Commission. It is reckoned to have paid

more than 400p a share for the original holding and is believed to be sitting on a large trading loss. With several large calls due, it may need the extra cash.

Grand Metropolitan clawed back all of Tuesday's losses as dealers continued to ponder the proposed acquisition of a 49 per cent stake in Remy Martin, the French group, and a 15 per cent holding in Cointreau belonging to M Max Cointreau.

Guinness was another firm market, jumping 20p to 664p, ahead of a meeting with analysts. Moët Hennessy Louis Vuitton, the French drinks and luxury goods group in which it holds a 24 per cent stake, has announced a surge in pre-tax profits of 45 per cent

Ultramarine firmed 2p to 366p. Smith New Court, the broker, says the shares have outperformed the market by 8 per cent, despite the placing of share stakes totalling 23 per cent. This outperformance is expected to continue this year and any weakness presents an opportunity to buy.

to beat its forecast of £290 million.

The rest of the drinks sector attracted selective support with rises in Allied-Lyons, 3p to 510p, Bass, 7p to £10.68, and Whitbread 'A', 7p to 415p.

Racal Telecom held on to an 11p rise to end at 369p, but dogged by a number of bearish claims, including one that suggested that the cellular telephone market has suffered a downturn.

This latest speculation follows a downgrading of profits last week by a leading broker, whose forecasts had been at the upper end of expectations.

The group is continuing to forecast 500,000 subscribers by the end of March.

Avon Rubber bounced back with a leap of 102p to 530p. Trelleborg Gummierwerke, of West Germany, has emerged with a near-5 per cent stake. Speculators are hoping it is a prelude to a full bid.

Michael Clark

WALL STREET

Wider trade gap sends Dow lower

New York (Reuter) - An unexpected widening of the United States trade gap in November and lower-than-expected IBM quarterly earnings forced shares lower, traders said.

The Dow Jones industrial average was down 10.03 points at 2,682.59 early on and declining issues edged out gainers by five-to-four.

Standard & Poor's 500-stock index was down 1.0 and the New York Stock Exchange composite index down 3/4. Declining issues led gainers by four-to-three as NYSE volume reached 15 million shares.

A \$10.5 billion (\$6.4 billion) US trade gap in November, up from the revised \$10.25 billion gap in October, was higher than forecasts. US bonds trimmed early gains on a 0.4 per cent rise in industrial production and 83.3 per cent capacity use.

● Tokyo - The market managed to avoid another sharp slide, with the Nikkei index ending slightly easier, but leaving a large number of issues showing gains. The

Nikkei lost 29.22 points to close at 3,621.14. The market had enjoyed a 430-point rise in early trading.

● Hong Kong - Shares ended mixed after experiencing wide price swings caused by mixed movements on leading overseas stock markets. The Hang Seng index gained 3.05 points to 2,754.84. Turnover remained light at HK\$679 million (£51.8 million).

● Frankfurt - Share prices closed broadly higher in moderately active trading as investors bought back equities after Tuesday's plunge. The 30-share Dax index, which had tumbled 52.93 points Tuesday, rose 13.80 points to end at 1,802.48.

● Sydney - The All-Ordinaries closed 7.4 points higher at 1,682.8. The index had slumped 38.2 points, or 2.2 per cent, in the previous two sessions after declines on foreign markets hit sentiment.

● Singapore - The Straits Times industrial index rose 20.54 points to 1,533.04, boosted by the strong overnight finish on Wall Street.

WORLD MARKET INDICES

Index	Value	Daily change (%)	Yearly change (%)	Daily change (%)	Yearly change (%)	Daily change (%)	Yearly change (%)
The World (free)	790.8	0.1	20.6	0.2	17.8	0.0	10.2
EAFE (free)	151.1	0.1	20.5	0.1	17.7	0.0	10.1
EAFE (free)	1454.2	0.2	14.3	-0.2	14.9	0.1	4.5
Europe (free)	149.5	0.1	14.0	-0.3	14.8	0.0	4.2
Europe (free)	745.2	1.2	37.7	0.5	26.8	1.1	25.9
Nth America (free)	160.0	1.2	38.2	0.2	27.0	1.1	25.3
Nth America (free)	607.9	0.1	33.8	0.0	22.1	0.0	22.3
Nordic (free)	1574.1	1.7	45.0	1.0	30.5	1.6	32.6
Pacific (free)	236.1	0.7	58.9	0.9	42.1	1.8	45.3
Pacific (free)	3699.5	-0.5	3.7	-0.6	9.3	-0.6	-5.2
Far East (free)	5231.7	-0.5	3.2	-0.6	9.1	-0.6	-5.7
Australia (free)	347.7	0.8	18.5	0.2	16.6	0.7	8.3
Australia (free)	1678.3	2.5	154.6	1.4	121.0	2.4	132.8
Belgium (free)	972.2	1.0	25.9	-0.1	8.7	0.9	15.1
Canada (free)	588.5	-0.3	28.8	-0.6	14.9	-0.4	17.8
Denmark (free)	1322.8	1.0	60.2	0.0	39.3	0.9	46.5
Denmark (free)	112.5	0.0	-2.9	-0.3	-15.2	-0.1	-11.3
Finland (free)	151.4	1.5	26.6	0.8	10.6	1.4	15.7
France (free)	774.4	1.7	44.1	0.7	24.7	1.6	31.7
Germany (free)	915.7	1.0	61.0	-0.1	39.9	0.9	47.2
Hong Kong (free)	2093.6	0.3	9.3	0.2	0.0	0.2	0.0
Italy (free)	382.5	1.2	30.5	0.1	14.6	1.1	19.3
Japan (free)	5563.4	-0.6	2.4	-0.6	8.9	-0.7	-6.3
Netherlands (free)	879.8	1.8	37.0	0.7	18.9	1.7	25.3
New Zealand (free)	102.1	0.4	19.4	0.0	12.0	0.3	9.1
Norway (free)	1398.3	1.8	67.9	1.1	52.2	1.7	53.5
Singapore (free)	241.5	1.7	68.8	1.0	51.3	1.6	52.5
Spain (free)	2000.3	1.4	57.6	1.1	40.0	1.3	44.1
Sweden (free)	220.5	1.5	11.1	0.1	-2.5	1.5	1.6
Sweden (free)	1772.2	2.2	47.6	1.7	35.4	2.1	35.0
Switzerland (free)	248.1	2.2	57.7	1.7	44.7	1.7	28.4
Switzerland (free)	906.5	1.8	38.3	0.4	26.4	1.7	28.4
UK (free)	139.4	2.1	40.7	0.6	28.6	2.0	28.6
UK (free)	705.2	0.8	29.1	0.8	29.1	0.7	18.1
USA (free)	456.0	0.1	34.2	0.0	22.7	0.0	22.7

Source: Morgan Stanley Capital International.

Take a stand on the future of Britain's youth.



DIRECTIONS
AT OLYMPIA JUNE 28th, 29th, 30th
SPONSORED BY
THE TIMES
THE SUNDAY TIMES

Bright young people today face a future that is rife with uncertainty. They need expert guidance to the myriad options available, whether they are starting out on a career, or continuing into further education.

Last year's DIRECTIONS was a triumphant success. 30,000 young people had the benefit of professional advice from Universities, Polytechnics, Colleges of Higher Education and leading employers - like British Petroleum and GEC Marconi. This year's event, sponsored by THE TIMES and THE SUNDAY TIMES at the Grand Hall, Olympia, will be the biggest yet.

On June 28th, 29th, 30th, DIRECTIONS into Careers and Higher Education will provide a unique opportunity for organisations to meet, advise and influence some 30,000 bright and talented young school leavers and graduates.

So, if you're a

- University
- Polytechnic
- College
- Potential Sponsor
- or Employer,

become an exhibitor at this year's fair.

Contact Kate Dawson, Manager, DIRECTIONS, Trotman & Company Limited, 12-14 Hill Rise, Richmond, Surrey TW9 6UA, or ring 01-940 5668, for an information pack.

Don't miss your chance to tap into the professional future of Britain.

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Portfolio PLATINUM

From your Portfolio Platinum card check your eight share price movements on this page only. Add them up to give you your overall total and check this against the daily dividend figure. If it matches you have won outright or a share of the daily prize money. If you win, follow the claim procedure on the back of your card. Always have your card available when claiming. Game rules appear on the back of your card.

No.	Company	Group	Gain or Loss
1	Whitbread 'A' (m)	Breweries	
2	Pilkington (m)	Industrials L-R	
3	Card Gp	Chemicals, Plastics	
4	Wardle Stores Plc	Chemicals, Plastics	
5	Hilldown (m)	Food	
6	Carlton Comm	Leisure	
7	Unigate (m)	Food	
8	Lloyds (m)	Bank, Discount	
9	Ladbroke (m)	Hotel, Caterers	
10	Laing Prop	Property	
11	Hawker Siddeley (m)	Industrials E-K	
12	Barbican	Electricals	
13	Allied Irish	Bank, Discount	
14	Br Vm	Industrials A-D	
15	Triplex Lloyd	Industrials S-Z	
16	Wills Gp	Industrials S-Z	
17	Sainsbury J (m)	Food	
18	Quinn	Industrials A-D	
19	Quinn	Building, Roads	
20	BAT (m)	Tobacco	
21	Stobhill	Industrials S-Z	
22	Nile Foods (m)	Food	
23	Burdens (m)	Bank, Discount	
24	BSC Group	Industrials A-D	
25	Tilbury Group	Building, Roads	
26	Miel	Electricals	
27	Royal Bect (m)	Electricals	
28	BICC (m)	Electricals	
29	Marlborough (m)	Building, Roads	
30	Tarmac (m)	Building, Roads	
31	Lombard Howard	Shoes, Leather	
32	Cap Corp Louisiana	Oil, Gas	
33	Reynolds (m)	Newspapers, Pub	
34	Outboard (m)	Food	
35	Fluor (m)	Industrials E-K	
36	BBA	Industrials A-D	
37	THORN EMI (m)	Electricals	
38	RHM (m)	Food	
39	Seacrest	Industrials S-Z	
40	Eng China Clay (m)	Industrials E-K	
41	Owens Abroad	Leisure	
42	ADT (m)	Industrials A-D	
43	Spring Ram	Industrials S-Z	
44	Amstrad (m)	Electricals	

Please take into account any minus signs

Weekly Dividend						
Please make a note of your daily totals for the weekly dividend of £12,000 in Saturday's newspaper.						
Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat	Total

BRITISH FUNDS

1989/90 High Low Book Price Change % P/E

SHORTS (Under Five Years)				
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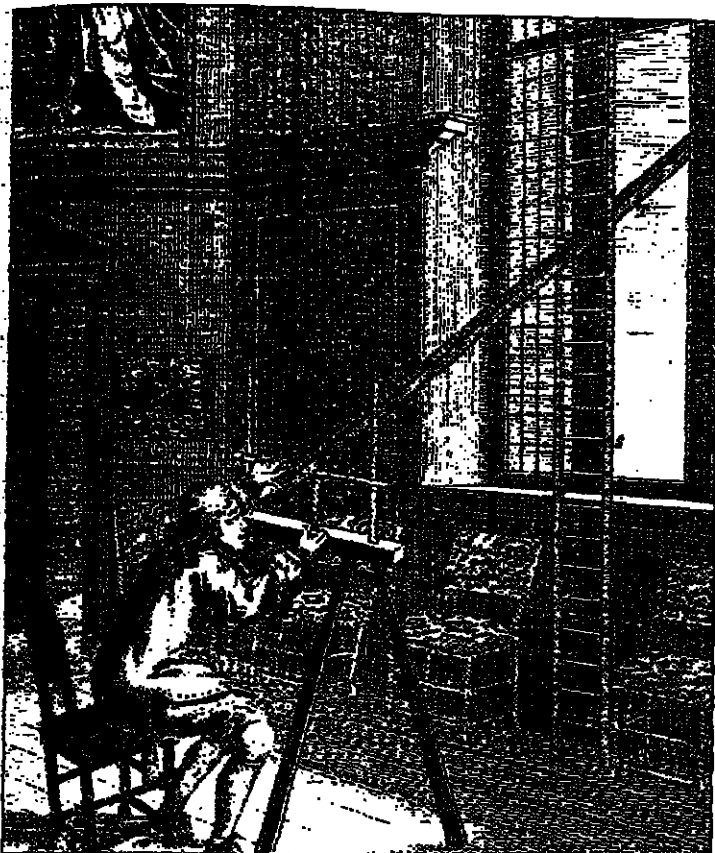
● MEDICINE: BRUNO HITS OUT
● SCIENCE: BREEZE BOOST
● TECHNOLOGY: GRAPHIC CUT

SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY

THURSDAY JANUARY 18 1990

Stargazing: past and future

GEOFFREY SIMS/DAVID HART



Old ways: in the 17th century, astronomers used refracting telescopes

Big telescopes are back. Astronomy in the 1990s promises to unlock the secrets of the universe. Pearce Wright looks at a new twist in the space race

After playing second fiddle to radio astronomy for decades and suffering the withering hand of bureaucracy, Britain's optical astronomers are back in the race to uncover the great secrets of the evolution of the universe.

For years, while Jodrell Bank became a household name and radio astronomers at Cambridge discovered the pulsar and earned Nobel prizes, optical astronomy slipped from its international position and up-and-coming British astronomers joined the brain drain to the modern American observatories at Mount Palomar, Kitt Peak and Mount Wilson.

But, once again, astronomy, with new techniques, computers and super-sensitive instruments, is poised to return to the forefront. Several events mark this year as the start of a new epoch for Britain in particular, and for the world of ground-based astronomy in general.

One is the realization this month of a long-held dream of optical astronomers. It has arrived with the success of a revolutionary technique, called adaptive optics, which eliminates the distortion of images recorded from telescopes on photographic plates or electronic detectors because of the Earth's atmosphere.

A second milestone comes in March, when the telescopes of the 315-year-old Royal Greenwich Observatory (RGO) which have been at Herstmonceux Castle, Sussex, since 1948, will be abandoned. The staff and nameplate will be moved to a new office block and workshop in Cambridge, but there will be no telescopes there. Since 1980, the RGO team have been building new telescopes on the island of La Palma, in the Canaries.

The transfer of the RGO to Cambridge is the culmination of a much-needed revival of British optical astronomy. It involved building a new generation of large optical instruments. Even after the move to Herstmonceux, British optical astronomers were handicapped by the cloudy skies over Britain which reduced good viewing to as few as 50 nights per year.

Their dilemma was compounded by a 10-year argument about where to place a new Greenwich telescope, to be called

the Isaac Newton Telescope (INT). Work on the INT eventually began in 1967 at Herstmonceux. In 1981, it was totally refurbished with a modern mirror system and a set of electronic and mechanical controls and moved to the clear skies of La Palma.

Since the invention of the telescope more than 350 years ago, astronomers have had to resign themselves to the limit imposed by atmospheric turbulence on the clarity of images they see.

Twinkling stars might appeal to romantics. But frustrated astronomers dismiss as "bad seeing" the flickering effect caused when starlight travels through hot and cold ripples of air high in the atmosphere. Mountain-top viewing removes some of the problem caused by air currents in the lower atmosphere. But at heights between five to 10 kilometres, there are swarms of small pockets of air that bedevil even the best mountain-top retreats.

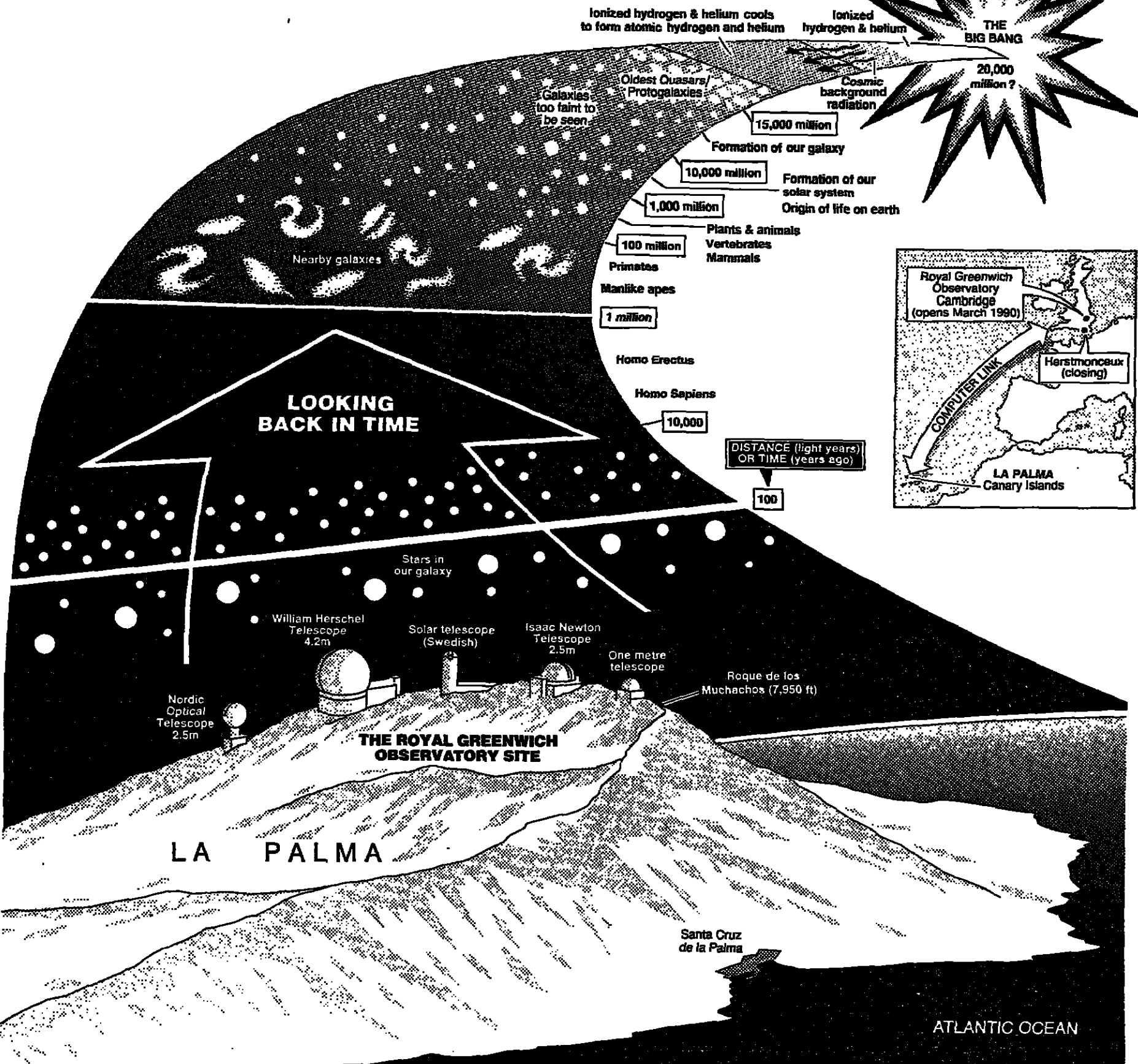
Atmospheric interference was the reason for the first move of the RGO to Sussex, from the knoll on which it was founded in Greenwich Park by King Charles II, in 1675.

Using the new electronic detectors, Professor Alec Boksenberg, the RGO director, and Dr Charles Steidel and Dr Wallace Sargent, of the California Institute of Technology, in Pasadena, California, have found a way to detect and probe the chemistry of galaxies in the remotest parts of the universe. This can be done by analysing light from quasars, or quasi-stellar objects: the baffling things that look like a point of light from a bright single star but emit more energy than 100 supergiant galaxies.

Professor Boksenberg's pioneering work is helping most of the large observatories to probe the farthest reaches of the universe, picking out hitherto invisible objects.

Modern professional astronomers rarely look through their telescopes. For years, most observations involved focusing the light on photographic plates, and, more recently, on electronic devices, recording images or computer data to be scrutinized later in the laboratory.

When the modern age of optical astronomy began with pictures recorded on photographic plates,



at the famous 200in telescope at Palomar, only one or two photons of light in 1,000 photons from a star or galaxy were captured. Today's electronic devices can detect more than 70 per cent of the light.

With this increase in efficiency, astronomers believe they will be able to obtain a full chemical analysis of the composition of objects that will provide clues to the history of when and how the first heavy elements were forged.

Until the new electronic detectors were developed, astronomers were unable to assemble a reliable chronology of the evolution of the universe. The other breakthrough, with adaptive optics, has been achieved by scientists of the European Southern Observatory organization (ESO). Founded in 1962 by eight western European countries, it has established a huge modern observatory for investigating the relatively unexplored sky over the southern hemisphere. Its telescopes have been built on a plateau 2,400 metres above sea level, at La Silla, in Chile.

There are now 14 instruments in operation at La Silla, including the 3.5 metre New Technology Telescope (NTT), described as the most advanced instrument in the world. Completion of the NTT coincides with successful experiments with another device, also

designed by an ESO team. The prototype instrument effectively strips away atmospheric turbulence and has been tested by recording images of star systems that scientists believe may have "daughter planets" like our own solar system.

The tests were made at a site with mediocre viewing conditions, using a 1.52 metre telescope, at the Observatoire de Haute Provence, in southern France. Instead of scientists seeing only twinkling stars, the invention "neutralizes the atmospherically-induced smearing of images", according to Dr Fritz Merkle, one of the ESO design team. "For the first time, this old problem has been demonstrably solved," Merkle says.

But adaptive optics works by correcting the light before it is recorded - either on a photographic plate or electronically - by removing the atmospherically-induced distortions.

The whole process is conducted in a fraction of a second, and involves changing the surface profile of a deformable mirror. The system is controlled by a computer analyser that examines incoming light and determines the distortion from atmospheric interference.

It calculates how far tiny actuators behind the mirror must push and pull its surface. They can do this 100 times a second. With powerful computers and satellite communication links, modern

'For the first time, this old problem has been solved'

telescopes at places such as La Palma and La Silla are increasingly being directed and operated by remote control from base.

Scientists from the other main optical astronomy team in Britain, at the Royal Observatory for Scotland, in Edinburgh, have already shared the benefits of building instruments overseas. Their international collaboration has been at the two other remote sites with a concentration of powerful telescopes, at Siding Spring, in outback New South Wales, Australia, and on top of Mauna Kea, Hawaii.

The British teams left at home are concentrating on inventing more sensitive detectors and ideas such as active and adaptive optics that will make the distant observatories more efficient.

Scientists believe that some quasars are the most distant objects to be observed in the

universe. According to the theory, only hydrogen and helium were formed in the Big Bang creation of the universe about 15 billion to 20 billion years ago. Heavier elements formed in the stars inside galaxies relatively soon afterwards, within four billion years.

Chemical analysis of objects within range of ground-based telescopes has suggested that different elements are made in various types of stars at different times in their lives.

And, since light from any celestial object takes a finite amount of time to reach Earth, the observers are looking at objects as they were long ago, when the universe was in its infancy.

The light from quasars also has a distinctive characteristic known as red shift, which is an optical effect indicating that an object is travelling at great speed away from the observer. Different red shifts correspond to different distances.

When the characteristics of the light from various distant quasars, and the effect, on it, of clouds of gas and dust in intervening galaxies between the Earth and the quasars are taken into account, the scientists calculate they are analysing the composition of objects over a time-span from 1.5 billion years to four billion years after the birth of the universe.

They have also concluded that the chemical composition of the universe has stayed roughly constant for the past four billion years.

Meanwhile, the great telescope race promises to hot up. It will be fuelled when the Hubble Space Telescope is launched into orbit by the American National Aeronautics Space Administration (Nasa), using a shuttle, later this year.

Just as importantly, engineers and astronomers are designing a new generation of very large ground-based telescopes, only now coming into operation, that will dwarf existing ones. They will be able to collect light from the farthest corners of the universe with giant mirrors to pick up even the feeblest light.

Ultimately, astronomers judge a telescope by the diameter of its main mirror which collects and focuses starlight. The largest telescope today is a six-metre telescope in the Soviet Union. In 10 years' time, there will be eight larger telescopes - the biggest containing four mirrors that, together, have the power of a single mirror 16 metres across.

Astronomers have now reached the point where they can expect little improvement in their detectors: even going from an efficiency of 70 per cent to the theoretical maximum of 100 per cent would be a comparatively small improvement. As we near the 21st century, the space race seems likely to be battled out on the ground. Will Britain stay among the front runners?

GIVING THE BBC THE PIPS: ROYAL GREENWICH OBSERVATORY HANDS OVER A TIME-HONOURED ROLE

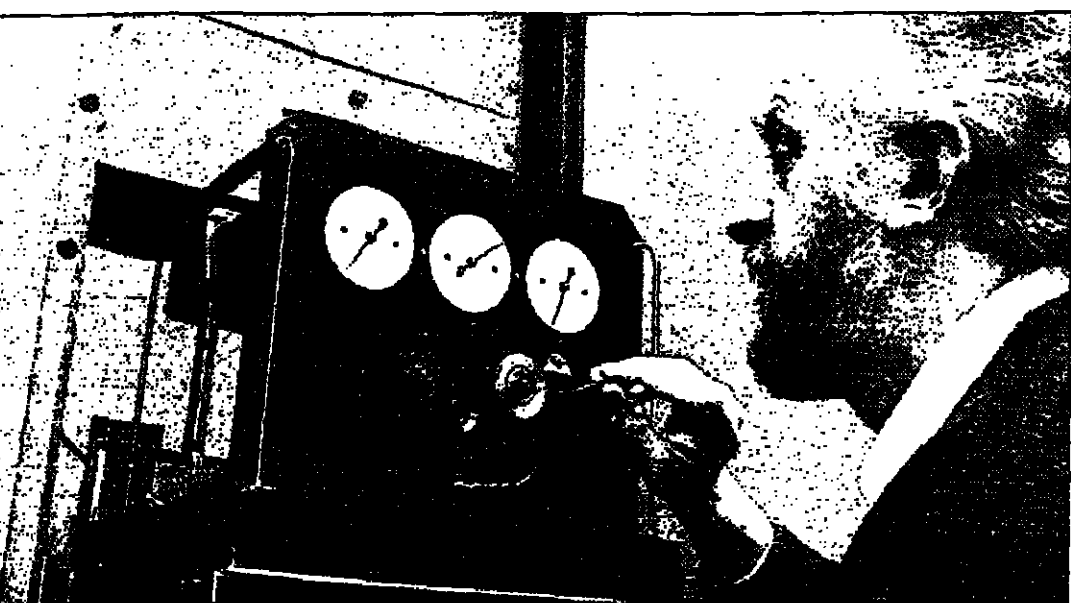
Atomic clocks around the world provide exact measurements

A new era in time-keeping begins next month when the Royal Greenwich Observatory (RGO) hands over to the BBC responsibility for the six-pip time service, the signal which made Greenwich Mean Time a household name.

The Greenwich signal was first broadcast by the BBC at 9.30pm on Tuesday, February 5, 1924.

Sir Frank Dyson, the ninth Astronomer Royal, introduced the first signal at the request of John (later Lord) Reith. It was derived from the seconds movement of a long-case pendulum clock. This generated electrical impulses that were sent by landline to the 2LO (medium wave broadcasting) studio, at Savoy Hill, on the Embankment, London, for wireless transmission through the British Isles as six dots, the last of which indicated the beginning of the minute.

Gradually the use of the signal spread, and today it is broadcast



Split second: Greenwich's Tony Seebrook adjusts the pip-generating equipment at Herstmonceux, Sussex

throughout the world on the BBC Home and World Services.

The first public time signal came into operation at Greenwich Observatory in 1833, when a ball was hoisted to the top of a mast at 12.55pm every day and dropped at 1pm.

Ships on the Thames could check their chronometers, which were essential for measuring longitude and navigating by the sun and the stars.

The advent of the railways brought pressure for accurate time nationwide and for a uniform system throughout the country.

A method of disseminating time from clocks at the observatory had already become possible with development of the electric telegraph. The local mean solar time, or the time that would be recorded by a sundial, when measured for the longitude of Greenwich (that is, Greenwich Mean Time) was

rapidly adopted as the standard time for railway timetables.

Yet it was only in 1880 that Greenwich Mean Time was made the legal time Britain.

In 1884, the Greenwich meridian was formally adopted as the zero longitude of the world and the basis of the world's time zones.

With the invention of the quartz clock 50 years ago, bringing time-keeping to an accuracy of 0.001 seconds a day, irregular changes

were detected in the rotation of the Earth, revealing a potential discrepancy in using local solar time for precise measurements.

There is a growing need for precise time for international communications and position-fixing systems, particularly for operations involving spacecraft.

The quartz clock was followed by atomic and caesium devices, measuring a few millionths of a second, for scientific purposes.

The signal is now derived from more than 100 atomic clocks around the world. They provide a time-scale that is commonly called GMT, but in fact is a system of Co-ordinated Universal Time, adopted 18 years ago.

Key dates
1675: RGO founded.
1833: First public time-ball signal.
1852: First time signals from Greenwich by electric telegraph.
1880: GMT made legal time in Britain.

1884: Longitude of Greenwich adopted as basis of world time zones.
1924: Greenwich six pips first transmitted.

1939: First quartz clock at Greenwich.
1966: First atomic clock at Greenwich.
1972: Co-ordinated Universal Time introduced. Sixth pip made a long one.

1990: BBC takes over the pips.

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SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY

Are they fighting fit?

Thomson Prentice reports on a call for tighter medical controls at the ringside

A punch on the head from heavyweight boxer Frank Bruno is like being struck by a 14-pound padded mallet travelling at 20 miles an hour, a medical conference was told this week. The full force of such a punch is equivalent to about half a ton, according to the results of a series of controlled experiments in which Bruno took part, and which have been reported in the *British Medical Journal*.

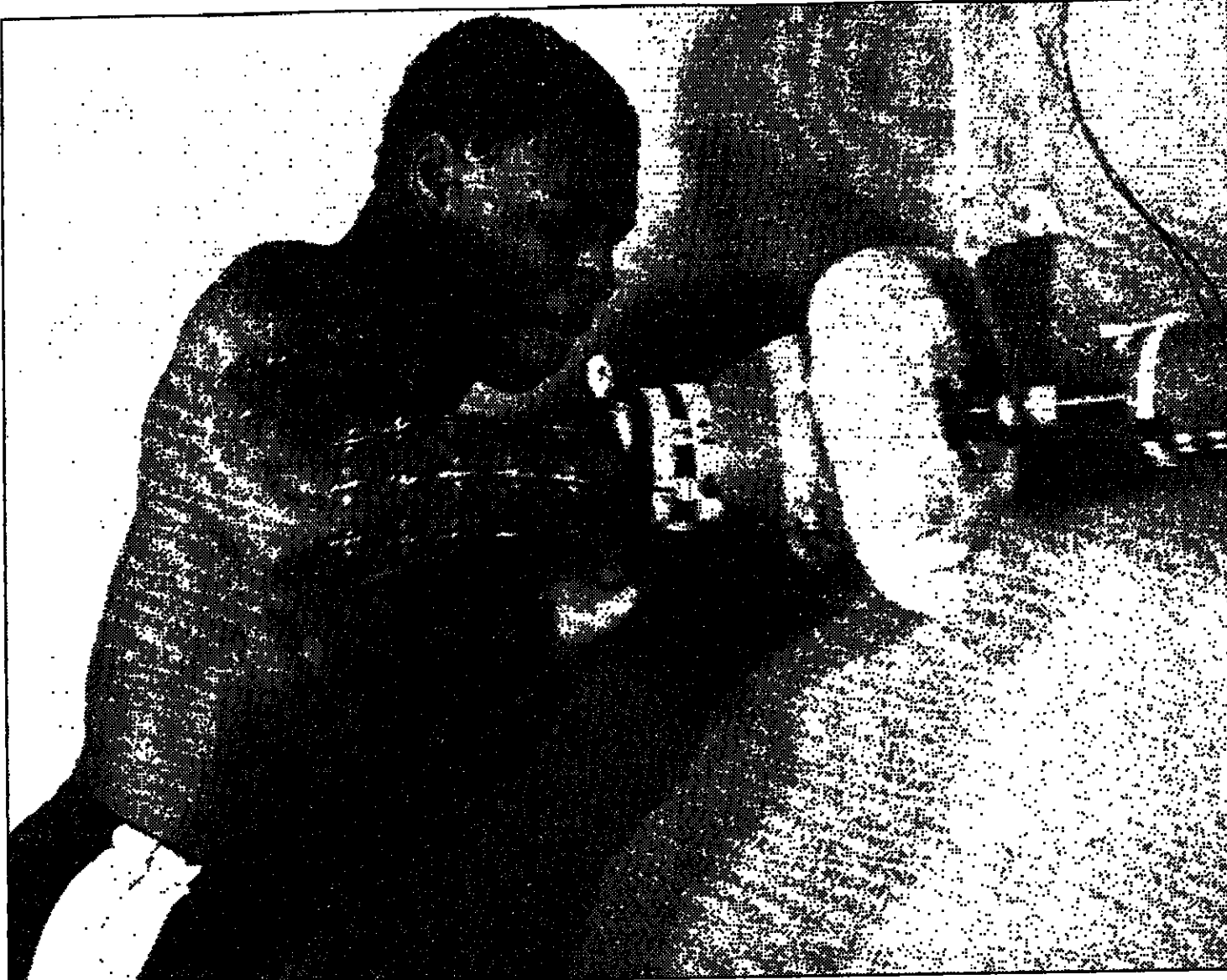
The surviving statistics were used by Owen Sparrow, honorary consultant neurosurgeon at the London Hospital, Whitechapel, at a conference on head injuries to demonstrate the potential dangers of the sport.

Although head injuries in boxing are rarely fatal, with 28 boxing deaths recorded world-wide between 1979 and 1985, up to 55 per cent of professional boxers suffer some form of brain damage, Sparrow told the conference, organized by the College of Occupational Therapists.

The most likely type of damage is boxing encephalopathy, sometimes known as dementia pugilistica, or punch drunk syndrome. Researchers have linked the brain damage caused to boxers with epilepsy and Alzheimer's disease, the most common form of senile dementia. Last year Dr Jeffrey Candy, a consultant anaesthetist at Lewisham Hospital, south London, and a member of the British Medical Association's working party on boxing, said that about one in five boxers showed a type of abnormal electrical activity in the brain, similar to that found in epilepsy sufferers.

Dr Gareth Roberts, a neurochemist at the Clinical Research Centre, Harrow, Middlesex, found similarities in post mortem samples of brain tissue from a group of retired boxers and from patients with Alzheimer's disease.

Sparrow told the conference of a recent case of an unidentified boxer admitted to the London Hospital after being knocked out. A large blood clot was removed

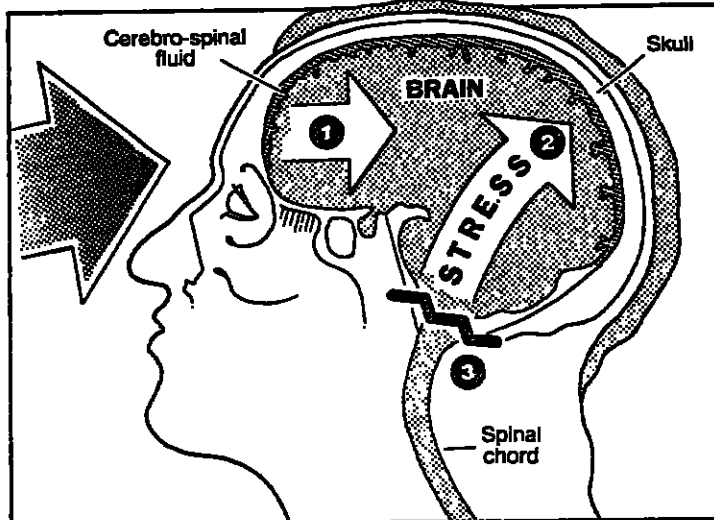


Packing a punch: Frank Bruno throws his famous right at the target in a series of medical tests, registering the equivalent of about half a ton

from his brain, but the boxer was severely disabled by the injury. "The means of preventing these injuries has to be sensible regulations, and prompt medical intervention, not at the whim of the referee but at the insistence of the doctor who must be at the ringside," Sparrow said.

He advocated neuropsychological tests for boxers who appeared to have been injured, and said the careers of those found to be at risk should be ended.

Despite the hazards, boxing is low on a league table of lethal sports, Sparrow said. According to a study in the United States, the estimated risk of death in boxers was 13 per 10,000 participants, compared with 128 per 10,000 jockeys in horse racing.



- 1 The brain is surrounded by fluid, so it can move forwards and backwards within the skull. A severe blow to the head causes concussion and bruising.
- 2 A similar effect occurs opposite the point of impact due to damage to small blood vessels and nervous tissue.
- 3 An extremely severe blow can cause death from a sudden displacement backwards of the neck. Repeated blows can lead to increasing loss of brain tissue, resulting in boxing encephalopathy, sometimes known as dementia pugilistica, or punch drunk syndrome. It is common among retired boxers, and the symptoms include slurred speech, unsteady gait, impaired memory and slowed mental reactions.

COMPUTING

The new breed in office systems

A new breed of personal computer application looks set to have an impact on the way people do business with one another over the next few years. Just as word-processing software changed the way many people write, and spreadsheets forced a rethink on financial plans, so "officeware" or "groupware" may well change the way we run our offices.

Officeware is software designed to benefit the running of an office. It consists of a number of functions grouped together: electronic mail, an electronic office diary (into which everyone in the office enters their appointments, and to which everyone can gain access via any computer on the network) and a scheduler — so that people within an office or workgroup can see when given projects must be completed, what stages their colleagues have reached, and when people are going on holiday.

Used properly, officeware can make a big difference to the way a company or department operates. When booking office meetings secretaries no longer have to check five people's diaries. They need only check the computer diaries, book the meeting and send electronic mail messages notifying people of the time.

Electronic mail also offers more attention-getting power than an ordinary memo. On many "e-mail" systems, a message will flash up on screen showing when a message has been received by a worker's computer, who has sent it and what it is about.

A number of office e-mail

systems also let the message sender know who has read their memos and when.

But the software only works if it gains quick, widespread acceptance throughout a company. And the only way that will happen is if it is easy to use and accessible through all the computers in an office — even when they come from different manufacturers.

That is the main reason officeware is big news among computer companies such as Apple, Hewlett-Packard, Microsoft, Word Perfect and IBM, all trying to take a share of the market.

Macintosh tried pioneering the idea less than successfully a few years back; now it has developed some skilful electronic mail and mini and mainframe connectivity software.

Hewlett-Packard recently announced a New Wave Office integrated office system, using a picture-based command system to run officeware across a number of different computers and systems.

Microsoft is relying on its OS/2 LAN Manager networking software and recently improved Microsoft Mail system to be at the forefront of its officeware effort.

The latter is an electronic mail system which operates on IBM-compatible and Apple Macintosh and allows e-mail to be sent between the two systems.

Word Perfect also has its Office electronic mail system working across a number of different computer systems.

Geoff Wheelwright

Laser for clay shoots

An environment-friendly and social way of clay pigeon shooting has been developed by a British company using laser beams. The laser is attached to a traditional shotgun and if a hit is scored the beam is bounced back into a receiver, also mounted on the gun. Successful shots are relayed to a land-based computer.

In contrast to the usual noise of shotguns and environmentally hazardous splinters of lead littering the ground, the laser gun is silent and clean.

The system has a simulated bang which can be volume-con-

trolled, meaning that clay pigeon shooting can be enjoyed in the city as well as the country.

The system, which took five years and £500,000 to develop, is the brainchild of the family firm Lasersports, based in the New Forest, Hampshire.

Cathy Nicholson-Pike, who runs Lasersports, says: "We do not claim to be replacing traditional clay pigeon shooting — although gamekeepers who have had a go thoroughly enjoyed it."

"What we are doing is creating a new leisure activity for a huge market."

Nick Nuttall

NEW TECHNOLOGY

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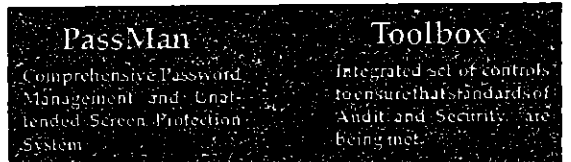
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Further details may be obtained by telephoning Dr James Densen on (01) 962 6123. Candidates should send a letter of application together with a cv and the names and addresses of three referees to Professor Nicholas Wald, Department of Environmental and Preventive Medicine, Charterhouse Square, London EC1M 6BQ.

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SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY

Riding the wind

The Government seems reluctant to fund small generators that harness nature's power, Nick Nuttall writes

Twenty-five years ago, before the public became conversant with the greenhouse effect, acid rains and ozone holes, Alan Cooklin bought his first wind generator for 20 shillings, complete with a 6ft mahogany propeller.

"I was a medical student renting a house for about £8 a year," recalls the former Edinburgh University student, now a psychiatrist at a London hospital. "There was no electricity, gas or anything, and I saw an old Lucas Freeflight from the 1930s. The laird delivered it to me for £1."

Yet what may have started out as a whim has turned into a consuming interest spanning two and a half decades. Next to his holiday house, 20 miles north of Berwick-on-Tweed off the Edinburgh road, stands a proud park of wind turbines and solar cells. It includes the Freeflight and a 50 and a 250 watt generator made by Marlec of Corby, Britain's biggest maker of small-scale wind systems.

There is enough energy in the park to power lights, television sets, a computer, hi-fi system, electric drills and a coffee grinder. From the top of a nearby hill, Cooklin can look seven miles across to Tormess and its nuclear power station. "Not an ounce of my power comes from there."

The Government has given millions to the research and development of large-scale wind turbines. These units, such as the Central Electricity Generating Board's newly erected one-gigawatt generator at Richborough, Kent, are designed for the national grid. Yet small-scale generators have received little public funding.

Export potential of either small-scale wind or combined wind and solar powered generators is vast, claims Charles Peterson, a telecommunications engineer who became interested in alternative power when working in Libya

with its telephone company. He believes that small-scale units offer a cheap and reliable power source where there is a shortage of fuel, parts and skilled repairmen.

They could also help bring Information Technology to the developing world, giving villagers trouble-free power to take educational, commercial and other data from satellites and on to personal computers. They can also power two-way telephone communications and television.

"Probably millions of places throughout the world have no mains power, such as villages in Pakistan, India, Africa and the Australian outback," says Peterson, who is also a member of the British Wind Energy Association's (BWEA) Small Systems Group and owner of Windsun Systems of Dunbar.

John Fawkes, who founded Marlec 11 years ago and won the Queen's Award for Industry last year, says: "It seems that every week new applications emerge. We started with small 50W machines for electric fencing on remote farms." On fish farms in Scotland and Ireland, small wind turbines are now powering electric offshore feeders and seal-scanners to ward predators away from the cages.

British Telecom is interested in units for repeater stations, and British Rail is testing wind generators on high tension wires near Loughborough to drive devices measuring the level of wear on train pantographs. And lighthouse administrators, including Trinity House, are either using or considering small-scale generators to drive low-powered beacons.

Yet, despite this apparent potential, the small-scale wind energy industry in Britain remains a cottage industry compared with the government and industry funds for large kilo, mega and gigawatt machines. Fawkes does not resent the access of companies such as GEC, British Aerospace



Nature's way: small wind generators are a cheap and reliable power source in remote areas such as the fish farms of Scotland and Ireland, running electric feeders and seal-scanners

and Taylor Woodrow to the public purse, but believes small-scale units have a vital role to play in the industry and in the protection of the environment. His company has just designed a 1kW wind turbine that, it is hoped, will be commercially available soon.

But he needs help to develop machines to bridge the gap between national grid and small-scale machines. "If we approach the National Wind Turbine Centre in East Kilbride, Scotland, which is part of the National Engineering Laboratory, they start talking of thousands of pounds to do any work," Fawkes says.

It has left British manufacturers, such as Marlec, LV Motors of Leitchworth in Hertfordshire and Lumic of Poole in Dorset at a disadvantage against overseas rivals. "We are just being left on our own. This is not the way to get an industry going. Large companies have the researchers and can get £4 million or £5 million to develop it."

European countries, including West Germany, Denmark and

The Netherlands, have grants available for the installation of small-scale systems.

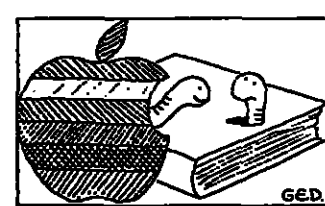
BWEA's small systems committee has secured a meeting next month with the Department of Trade and Industry (DTI) in a bid to gain recognition for the role of small-scale generators. Fawkes says: "We are asking for help to develop better batteries, systems, aerofuels and methods of manufacturing blades." However, he is unsure whether help will be forthcoming, despite a British market potential running in the hundreds of thousands of pounds and overseas in millions for the £200 to £1,000 machines. "We may be caught between two stools - the Department of Energy, which funds the big boys, and the DTI," Fawkes says.

Yet it appears that the Government is at last taking small scale wind and solar seriously. A survey has just been completed into the technology's potential, details of which will be discussed at next month's meeting. But the findings are being kept confidential amid concern that valuable commercially-sensitive information may fall into overseas competitors' hands.

JOBSCENE

Catch the desktop boom

The demand for technical authors and desktop publishing operators is booming as firms realize the benefits of hiring specialists to produce high-quality documents.



"A lot more companies are doing DTP [desktop publishing] in-house and there are many more opportunities for consultancy work, particularly for the management and accountancy firms, which are aiming for better presentations to their clients," says Nicole Fulton, managing director of the Desktop Recruitment agency in London.

"The demand from publishing and printing houses and the design studios is growing quite fast as they see what can be accomplished with DTP."

DTP operators have seen a sea change in the market, as

professionals from other disciplines, such as designers and writers, are increasingly required to be familiar with the more common DTP systems. This has led to a reduction in purely operation jobs.

Electronics manufacturers are the most consistent employers of authors, but there is a shortage of experienced hardware writers. Many documentation firms steer clear of this area. The strongest demand comes from the hundreds of software houses, and larger businesses such as banks.

An experienced writer would expect to earn about £16,000, but this can go to the mid-twenties for a documentation manager. There is also the chance to contract on a daily basis, and here rates can be from £100 to £200 per day, more akin to that paid to other development staff.

Like most other IT positions, it is difficult to get the first job, as most of the specialist documentation firms prefer graduates with a number of years' experience. Businesses with in-house publishing departments are more flexible. One option is to attend a technical writing course and gain a qualification through an organization such as the Institute of Scientific and Technical Communicators.

Leslie Tilley

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Further particulars and application forms may be obtained from Mr J M Y Dickens, Chief Personnel Officer, Agricultural and Food Research Council, Central Office, Whitehall Court, Farnaby Street, Swindon SN1 5AT (0793 514242 ext. 315).

The closing date for applications is 31 January 1990.



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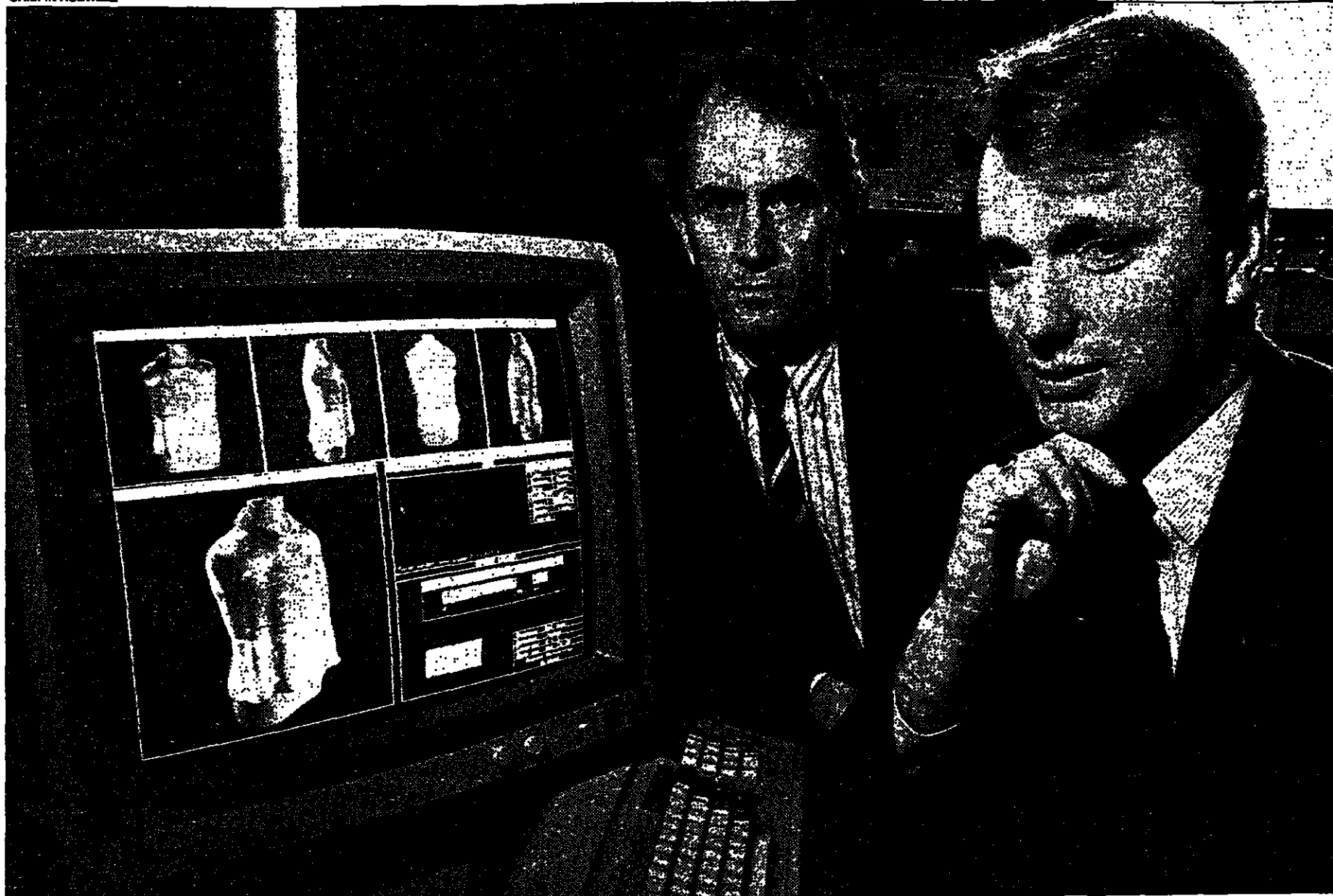
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GENERAL APPOINTMENTS

also appear in Section 3 of today's paper

SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY

CRISPIN RODWELL



All sewn up: Dr Brendan Hinds and Dr James McCartney of Queen's University, Belfast, have invented a system for making accurate garment patterns using computer graphics

Cut down to size — by computer

Paper patterns used in the clothing industry will soon be produced by computer — bringing automation to the only sector of garment-making still dependent on manual skills.

Software is being developed which can, within minutes, convert designers' sketches into accurate patterns, exactly specified on a computer screen. Computer graphics portray exact screen photographs of the finished garment, appropriately coloured, long before the material is cut.

The advance promises greater efficiency and higher profits for industry. Large stores will be able to assess a design from a computer

representation, reducing the cost of samples. Quicker responses to changes in fashion will be feasible. The patterns can also conform exactly to the designers' plans.

Complex mathematics, which make it possible for information about body depths to be introduced into a designer's two-dimensional sketch, form the basis of the breakthrough. Dr James McCartney and Dr Brendan Hinds, engineers at Queen's University, Belfast, who are funded by the Science and Engineering Research Council, have found a way to compile a three-dimensional database for garment design from an array of co-ordinated points, obtained by "digitizing" the surface of a trade

Quicker responses to fashion will be feasible

mannequin. The design, based on this data, is then conveyed to the computer.

Until now, new designs have been achieved by adapting, with scissors and adhesive tape, standard cardboard cut-outs created

by craftsmen, many years before, for each garment type. These 2D sample patterns frequently need re-working to reflect accurately the designer's plan, or achieve the geometric precision needed for cutting in batches.

This highly-skilled operation can now be done on a graphics work-station. Here, the surface description derived from the trade mannequin is represented on screen as a dummy, capable of being scaled to different sizes and proportions. Each design can be applied to a range of sizes.

The designer and computer work together to design the 3D garment panels using the dummy, measuring how far off the body surface the garment should be. A

3D cursor, with access to all points on the dummy surface and surroundings, imprints points specified in the design. These form the building blocks of the design and the pattern. The cursor nominates the points the designer has marked, to create the cubic curves which form the panel edge, and then joins the points.

Algorithms (arithmetic computations) have been devised which develop the 3D surface points into 2D patterns, fed from the computer. Slight manual adjustment for type of seam or hang of cloth is still required. Negotiations are in progress to sell the technology to a local garment company.

Carmel McQuaid

SCIENCE REPORT

Can you spare a bite, buddy?

The vampire bats of Latin America are not the most lovable of creatures, with their habit of returning to the same victim night after night to drink blood.

But it is quite a different story from the vampire bat's point of view. In a paper in the February issue of *Scientific American*, Gerald Wilkinson, Professor of Zoology at the University of Maryland, shows that vampire bats live constantly on the brink of disaster, for if two nights pass without a blood meal, a bat will starve to death. The habit of returning to a known victim again and again is one way of reducing the risk of starvation.

But vampire bats have a second, more remarkable insurance policy: they have evolved a "buddy" system, in which individual bats have long-term partners that will regurgitate and share their blood, so that their partner will not starve.

Wilkinson studied his vampire bats in Costa Rica. The same species, *Desmodus rotundus*, is found from Mexico to Chile, roaming the countryside in the pitch dark (nights with too much moonlight are avoided), looking for horses, cattle, and very occasionally humans, to feed upon.

The bats are well-adapted for their work. They use echolocation to navigate in the dark and a refined sense of smell helps them track down their prey. Heat sensors in the bat's nose find the best place to bite, a warm spot where a blood vessel lies just below the victim's skin. An anticoagulant in the bat's saliva then keeps the blood flowing for the 20 to 30 minutes needed to complete a meal.

Each bat must drink between 50 and 100 per cent of its body weight in blood every night. Young bats are at particular risk of starvation. Until they become skilful at biting quickly and painlessly they are often driven away by their prey.

Wilkinson observed the bats' social life in the hollow trees in which they roost. All he needed was a pair of binoculars, a diffuse light source and the forbearance to lie on his back with his head inside the base of a tree. He found that the bats have long, stable relations with one another — one pair of females, for example, roosted together for 12 years. Vampire bats may live for as long as 18 years. He also saw bats regurgitating blood to feed others.

That vampire bats feed blood to their young had been discovered by Uwe Schmidt, a

zoologist who kept a colony of the bats in the turret of the ancient castle of Poppelsdorfer Schloss in Bonn. (The bats were not allowed to roam the countryside in search of prey, but were fed on blood from the local slaughterhouse.) But there is a big difference between feeding one's own

offspring, which all mammals do, to feeding unrelated adults, which is almost unknown.

Wilkinson showed that bats are very choosy about the partners with which they share blood meals. Bats with a long history of co-habitation feed one another quite often. But blood is given most readily for one companion that frequently donates blood in return.

The buddy system really is a life-saver. Wilkinson's studies show that on average 30 per cent of young bats and 7 per cent of experienced bats fail to find a victim on any one night. From those figures a computer simulation predicts that, in the course of a single year, 82 per cent of bats would go hungry on two consecutive nights and die. But the buddy system has cut this potential death rate to only 24 per cent.

Alun Anderson

Nature/Times News Service 1989

NEW TECHNOLOGY

Continued From Previous Page

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to Development Controller

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The Development Controller reports to the Chief Executive. She is responsible for advising on strategic and political issues, lobbying political figures, writing speeches and the company's annual report, and assisting in the implementation of company strategy.

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TVS
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Reference Number: 3061/90
Closing date: 26th January 1990.

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New image for coal and steel county



Rebuilding: Les Henson, with Durham Cathedral as a backdrop, looks ahead to more growth

In a fourth-floor office offering views across the city of Durham, with the majestic cathedral and brooding castle dominating the skyline, Les Henson is charting the progress of the past few decades and the tasks ahead for one of England's most northerly counties.

Henson is the chief executive of the County Durham Development Company, set up by the county council in 1987 to develop initiatives for economic regeneration. It works closely with the Northern Development Company and the Department of Trade and Industry, which lead the campaign to attract investment in the region.

Henson says: "The past few decades have seen the county's economy totally transformed. We have seen the difficulties caused in the past by too much reliance on just a few leading employers and we have learned the lessons. The economic base is now more diverse and varied."

"During the next decade we shall see a consolidation of our position. As well as continuing to work to attract new investment into the area, we shall be encouraging the growth of the small firms already here."

The old works declined and 40,000 people became unemployed. But today Durham is optimistic about its broader industrial base and new investment

Traditionally, the county has been associated with coal-mining, steel and heavy engineering. Early this century 150,000 men worked in 150 pits and almost 50 coke works. Once, 10,000 laboured in its steelworks and 8,000 produced railway engines and rolling stock. Today, fewer than 5,000 work at the four remaining collieries. Steel, railway engines and rolling stock are no longer produced.

Vast industrial waste areas have been reclaimed, not just to improve the environment but to change the county's image and make it more attractive to investors. A second industrial revolution has developed and attracted modern technology businesses and there has been particular interest in Japanese and other Far Eastern concerns already established.

The western half of the county's area of almost 1,000 square miles is mainly open moorland and wooded valleys

and is recognized as an area of outstanding natural beauty.

Its administrative and historic centre is the city of Durham, where the cathedral, designated along with the Norman castle as a World Heritage Site, provides an appeal that charms tourists



and potential developers and companies.

The county has a modernized communications system, comprising motorways and trunk roads, InterCity rail links, airports at Newcastle upon Tyne and Teesside, and port facilities on the Tyne, Wear and Tees rivers. It boasts six further education

colleges and Durham University. The county has come a long way since its low point around 1983 when 40,000 men and women were out of work. The unemployment rate among the male work-force was 25 per cent. Today, there are 21,000 jobs, 9.6 per cent of the work-force, a remarkable achievement in six years secured by a common determination and a close relationship among development agencies, local authorities and regional offices of government departments.

Ken Frankish, Durham's economic development director, believes the county is enjoying the benefits of initiatives taken 25 years ago to reclaim the areas of industrial dereliction, invest in new infrastructure and create a modern image.

New industrial estates have sprung up on greenfield sites and demand is such that more are likely. Though most new factories are being built by the

Government's English Estates, the county hopes speculative developers are starting to see the opportunities.

Many companies of national and international reputation are now established and an impressive number of overseas concerns are part of the economic base. They include Sanyo, NSK and SMK from Japan, and more than 14 American and 20 European companies. Household names already represented include Black & Decker, Fisher Price, 3M, Electrolux, GEC Telecommunications, Mono Containers, the makers of plastic cups and food containers, Electrolux and Norsk Hydro.

Two recently announced investments will provide thousands of jobs. Fujitsu is spending £400 million and creating 1,500 jobs to set up a European microchip manufacturing base at Newton Aycliffe, and Millicom, a telecommunications service company, will create 1,000 jobs.

The county council has financial packages it believes challenge the rival attractions, and has committed £1.25 million a year to development schemes and has created 14,000 jobs in five years.



DURHAM COUNTY COUNCIL
EDUCATION DEPARTMENT

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DURHAM COUNTY COUNCIL
EDUCATION DEPARTMENT

Just as many problems can lie behind the curtains of cottage windows as in the inner-city housing estates. Unemployment, social, economic and transport problems, and poor facilities are concerns shared by countryside communities - and County Durham is no exception.

Two-thirds of Durham, containing 15 per cent of the population, is designated a rural development area by the Rural Development Commission. It is the target of schemes and programmes to achieve the aspirations in the slogan of the associations formed to run the system: "A better life in the countryside."

The East Durham Rural Development Area, the smaller of two designated areas, takes in parts of the districts of Durham, Easington and Sedgefield, as well as Whintry Parish in Stockton-on-Tees. It has productive farms, but a century of mining and quarrying has left it with high unemployment, dereliction,

The Rural Development Commission has brought improvements to life in the communities that would have been impossible for the local councils

sprawling pit villages and a declining population. Durham's only four working pits are in the eastern section. It is an area recognized by the commission as having more serious problems than others and is eligible for enhanced assistance.

The West Durham Rural Development Area includes the Teesside District, a large part of Wear Valley District and the south and west of Derwentside. In the west it is sparsely populated Pennine moorland and dales. Although

its falling population stabilized in the 1970s and unemployment has declined, the jobless number is still high and almost 40 per cent of claimants have been out of work for more than a year.

Against this background, a joint steering committee for the two areas has produced a three-year programme to improve economic and social conditions. The strategy is to encourage local people to start businesses and community organizations and to operate a development programme that

includes workshops, support for small businesses, environmental improvements, better transport links and community facilities, and new tourist attractions.

By the end of 1988 English Estates, as agent for the commission, had created 135 workshops, providing 167,000 sq ft of space and 635 jobs across the two areas. The tenants include bakers, chemical manufacturers and hi-tech computer services.

Commission grants have helped to provide mini-bus

services in Teesside and Weardale, and several multi-purpose village and community centres.

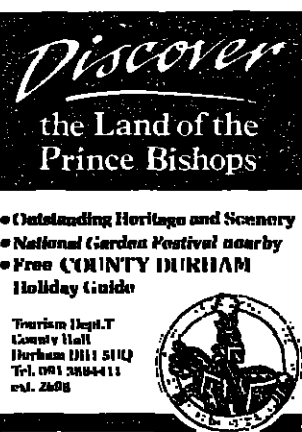
The new Coxhoe Centre provides a sports hall, squash courts, a weight training room, a snooker table and a lounge. Without the funds local people would have had long journeys to enjoy amenities of this kind.

At South Hetton, offices on the former colliery site have become a community centre, and at Langley Park, still scarred by a mining tradition dating back to the 1870s, the programme has inspired wide-ranging environmental improvements with community involvement.

One ambitious scheme is the Durham Dales Centre at Stanhope, which will act as a tourism information centre and the basis of a business advice system and will provide craft training and workshops to diversify the local economy. The commission is paying the £650,000 cost.

The improvements to the environment and physical appearance of many villages not only benefit the communities but are also a vital part of the task of attracting investment and industry.

Ken Frankish, the county council's economic development director, says the commission has ploughed £10 million into the area since 1984. He adds: "The local authorities could not have found funds of that sort. Without this investment, the outlook for our rural areas would be of even higher unemployment and a much bleaker future."



Observing a regeneration: Ken Frankish has seen a £10 million injection to boost employment

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Reclaimed: David Newbiggin, the environment director, surveys what was once a derelict site

Tourism revives a flagging economy

Only a decade ago, the suggestion that the county of Durham had the potential to be a popular tourist attraction would have been greeted with incredulity and more than a little laughter, both within and without its boundaries.

The accepted image then was of a dull and dour region dominated by the coal and steel industries and their environmentally offensive waste products: of flat caps and whippets, dirt, grime and cultural horizons that lifted no higher than the stage of the local working men's club.

Today that image - it was never the real truth, of course - is a thing of the past, and tourism is making an increasingly important contribution to the county's economic recovery.

More than a million people a year now visit the county, spending between £30 million and £40 million. This has created 4,900 jobs and supports another 11,000.

Not surprisingly, Durham County Council intends to keep the ball rolling by injecting £75 million into tourism and creating a further 2,000 jobs. Development projects include a new visitor centre in Durham city, an alpine leisure park in Wear Valley, new hotels and improvements to facilities.

The area's best-known landmark is the magnificent Durham Cathedral and its neighbouring castle - now a World

Visitors flock to the county once shunned for being dull and dirty

Heritage site - but there are a host of other attractions, including a rich and varied natural landscape.

The open-air museum at Beamish is the winner of a European award and attracts more than 300,000 visitors a year, while the classic architecture of Durham city brings in more than 350,000 tourists annually.

Other points of interest include the Bowes Museum at Barnard Castle and Darlington Railway Museum. And, for the more active, the county boasts 16 golf courses and 14 leisure and sports centres.

Man-made attractions are not the only tourist lure. The western half of the county forms part of the North Pennines Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty and includes Britain's highest waterfall, High Force.

Tourism marketing by the county council is based on three heritage themes. First, there is the rich Christian tradition of Durham county as the Land of the Bishops, the name given to promotion of the area.

This emphasises 800 years of rule by the Prince Bishops

of Durham, powerful men who controlled the frontier land between England and Scotland like kings.

The two other themes are the countryside and the county's industrial and social aspects.

The success of tourism in the county is due to the foresight of its county council. During the past three decades enormous areas of unsightly and derelict land - left over from the county's industrial history - have been reclaimed.

The council started its campaign of environmental improvements in 1954 by appointing a forester to plant trees on small pit-waste heaps. At the time there was no government money for such work but when grants were introduced in 1960 the council stepped up its programme.

Today, 36 years after the initiative began it has achieved remarkable results. More than 700 improvement schemes have since been carried out and 10,000 acres of land reclaimed, providing 46 miles of railway walks, nine picnic areas, five nature reserves, new golf courses and small industrial sites, playing fields and housing estates.

The marketing of the new green image of County Durham will continue next year at the National Garden Festival, which is being held on the doorstep, at Gateshead, Tyne & Wear.

Another industrial revolution

The return of the Japanese is a kind of homecoming

The county of Durham was at the forefront of the Industrial Revolution, establishing the world's first steam passenger railway, the Stockton and Darlington in 1825, and developing huge coalfields, iron and steel plants and shipbuilding yards.

During the past three decades, however, there has been a dramatic change. The county no longer produces steel or railway engines and the number of pits has dwindled from 150 to a mere handful.

It seems appropriate that the county should also be the birthplace of a second industrial revolution that has engulfed north-east England.

In March 1974, the Japanese ball-bearing manufacturer,

NSK, announced it was to build a plant at Peterlee after considering 18 sites throughout the north-east, Scotland and Wales. It was the first wave of a flood of investment from the Far East that was to have a great impact on economic and employment opportunities in a region then labouring under severe depression.

Today, more than 20 Japanese companies are based in the north-east, including Britain's largest concentration of mechanical engineering investment, and, in the case of the car-maker Nissan, just across the county border at Washington, the single largest manufacturing investment by a Japanese company in Europe. It is hoped to double that number during the next three years.

In her book, *Japan and the North East of England*, Marie Conte-Helm, head of Japanese Studies at Sunderland Polytechnic, writes:

"As NSK Bearings (Europe) prepared to start production at Peterlee in the mid-1970s, a new day was dawning and a

new phase in the industrial development of the region beginning. Despite the initial controversy over the establishment of NSK in the north-east, the recruitment of the first British workers and contact with the local community started to turn the tide and focus attention on the cultural differences and management style which characterized the Japanese way of work."

Among the Japanese concerns now in County Durham are SMK, which makes electronic components at Newton Aycliffe, near Darlington; Sanyo, which produces microwave ovens near by; Tokyo Yogyo UK, which makes refractories at Chilton; and Fujitsu, which is to build a £400 million plant, the second biggest Japanese investment after Nissan, to make semi-conductors at Newton Aycliffe, providing 1,500 jobs.

Nissan and Komatsu, manufacturer of earth-moving equipment, are just over the northern

border of the county but are a great source of sub-contracting work within Durham. By 1992, it is estimated that total Japanese investment in the north-east will total more than £1 billion and will have created about 8,000 direct jobs.

Though the relationships between this region and Japan may seem to be comparatively recent, in fact they stretch back more than a century to 1862 when a group of Japanese envoys visited Britain.

Because of the north-east's world-wide reputation as a centre of excellence in industry and technology, the Japanese delegation took the opportunity to visit the region and its important coalfields, heavy engineering works and shipbuilding industry.

From this beginning, contacts developed, resulting in the Imperial Japanese Navy placing orders with shipyards on the Tyne for battleships.

Today, the links are stronger than ever. Several hundred Japanese now live in the area and associations and groups

provide cultural outlets for adults and children. Durham is to provide a campus for 100 Teikyo students a year. They will take part in college life while perfecting their English.

Other activities in the region include martial-arts clubs, kite-flying clubs, origami demonstrations and demonstrations of the Japanese tea ceremony.

Conte-Helm, a former cultural officer at the Japanese embassy in London, says that the original investments by Japanese companies did not take place without some controversy over their effect on indigenous businesses and suspicions of their long-term commitment.

However, she adds, there is a sense of coming full circle in the relationships now established: in the late 19th century, the north-east aided Japan's progress towards modernization. And today's Japanese investment is contributing to the revitalization of Britain's north-east region as it climbs out of depression.

A university that leads

Durham University, founded in 1832, is the third oldest in England with around 5,000 full-time students and 2,000 staff. It takes pride of place at the head of the county's academic institutions, which include six further education colleges, 47 comprehensives and five private schools.

The university enjoys a world-wide reputation in many areas of expertise. It intends to expand student numbers to 6,000 by the 1990s. It is undertaking developments to build on its links with the regional community and industry and reinforce its commitment to national education and international scholarship and research.

Projects include an overseas branch school of Tokyo's University of Teikyo, which will provide a teaching and cultural centre for 130 Japanese students.

The school, due for completion this spring, marks another close tie between the region and Japan. The university also intends to establish a college on Teesside with the local polytechnic, providing 1,000 places.

The university is a well-established partner with industry in the north-east, involved in projects that com-

bine commercial and academic expertise to aid industrial regeneration and the creation of new jobs. It offers a wide range of specialist equipment and the services of experts for solving problems, testing and analysing samples and carrying out research into new products and processes.

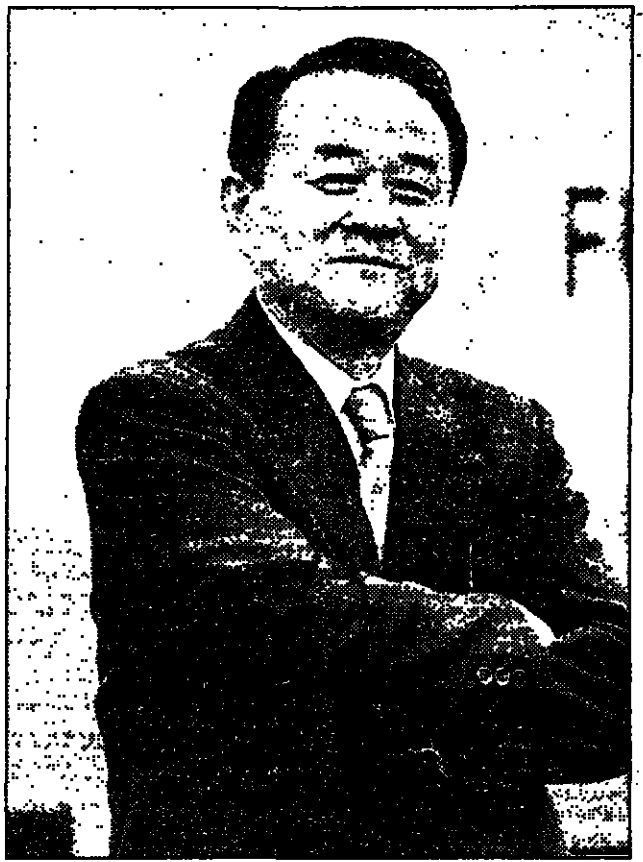
Its Industrial Research Laboratories, housed in the Mountjoy Research Centre, were set up jointly with English Estates as a prestige location for commercial research and development. With Newcastle University and the polytechnics of Sunderland, Teesside and Newcastle, Durham has formed Higher Education Support for Industry in the North to add to the partnership links.

The university's presence and its highly developed research facilities and hi-tech skills are seen as an important influence in attracting new investment to the area. Durham's graduates, too, are much in demand by industry. Income from research grants and contracts are running at

record levels. At almost £6 million, the figure for 1988-89 was 25 per cent higher than the previous year's. The university has one of Britain's most popular engineering departments, with support from industry and research councils. Projects include robot manufacturing techniques for such items as shoes and underwear and the production of new plastics from polymer research as part of a national drive, with £40.6 million funding during the next six years by the Science and Engineering Research Council.

Durham has one of the most highly regarded geography departments in Britain, using computer technology for recording information and processing statistics. It is studying the influence of the greenhouse effect on sea levels and its implications for coastal areas of Western Europe.

The Vice-Chancellor, Professor Fred Holliday, welcomes the 1990s. "Durham is well placed to meet the challenges and play its part as a top-ranking university," he says.



Shiro Fujimoto heads the £400 million Fujitsu factory project, while Durham University forges academic links

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Before Lord Donaldson of Lynton, Master of the Rolls, Lord Justice Glidewell and Lord Justice Fargher
[Judgment July 27, 1989]

A patient applying for discharge to a mental health review tribunal was entitled to bring proceedings to restrain publication of information about the tribunal proceedings which constituted a breach of section 12(1)(b) of the Mental Health Act 1983.

Where a patient sought to prevent publication of the fact that he was making such an application, of the date of the hearing and of the tribunal's decision, he was entitled to injunctive relief only in respect of the date of the hearing, prior publication of which was prohibited by the rule.

Since the proceedings were not in being until after his application had been received by the tribunal and since the bare result of its decision was not part of the proceedings, he was not entitled to relief in respect of the publication of such information.

A mental health review tribunal discharging its duties under the Mental Health Act 1983 exercised thereby "the judicial power of the state" within the meaning of section 19 of the Contempt of Court Act 1981 and for the purposes of contempt of court.

Since section 12(1) of the Administration of Justice Act 1960 applied to proceedings before mental health review tribunals, a patient was entitled

to seek relief in respect of any threatened or actual publication of information relating to proceedings before the tribunal which constituted a breach of section 12(1)(b).

The Court of Appeal so stated (Lord Justice Glidewell dissenting in part) allowing the appeal of the patient, Mr Peter Pickering, from the refusal of Mr Justice Roch to continue an injunction granted *ex parte* by Mr Justice Simon Brown restraining the defendants, Liverpool Daily Post and Echo Newspapers plc, Associated Newspapers Holdings plc and Yorkshire Post Newspapers plc from publishing any information about his application to the mental health review tribunal, in particular that he had made an application for discharge, the date of the hearing and the tribunal's decision.

The Court of Appeal had ordered under section 4 of the Contempt of Court Act 1981 that its judgment was not to be reported until after the conclusion of the proceedings before the tribunal.

On December 22 the patient's solicitors indicated that the proceedings were so concluded and on January 17 the Court of Appeal released the judgment for publication.

Mr Alan Newman, QC and Mr Robin Allen for the patient; Mr Charles Gray, QC and Mr Graham Read for the first defendant; Mr Charles Gray, QC and Mr Manuel Barca for the second defendant; Mr Charles Gray, QC and Mr Manuel Barca for the third defendant; Mr Nigel Fleming as *amicus curiae*.

The MASTER OF THE

ROLLS said that the patient had been convicted in 1972 of the particularly brutal killing of a girl aged 14 which had been preceded by a sexual attack upon her. He had a history of other violent sexual attacks on women and children.

The Crown and the court had accepted his plea of guilty to manslaughter on the ground of diminished responsibility and he was detained in a secure mental hospital under a restriction order.

A previous application for discharge had been attended by much publicity leading to proceedings being taken by the Attorney-General against the first and second defendants in the present action for contempt of court.

Those proceedings had been dismissed on the grounds that the tribunal was not a court for the purposes of section 19 of the Contempt of Court Act 1981 and because on the facts there had been no contempt if the tribunal were such a court: see *Attorney-General v Associated Newspapers Group plc* ([1989] 1 WLR 322).

Under the Mental Health Act 1983 the review tribunals were given the power and duty of applying statutory criteria and on the basis of their findings ordering or refusing to order the release of restricted patients from detention to which they had been subjected by order of a body which was undoubtedly a court.

Furthermore, the tribunals had the power to summon witnesses by subpoena. His Lordship had no doubt that in law a mental health review tribunal was a court and,

in his judgment, in so far as *Attorney-General v Associated Newspapers Group plc* decided otherwise it was wrong and should not be followed.

With regard to contempt of court, there were no grounds for granting the patient an injunction designed to deter the defendants from impeding or prejudicing the course of justice. Publication of the information which they wished to disseminate would not necessarily have that effect.

His Lordship considered the Mental Health Review Tribunal Rules 1983 made pursuant to section 78 of the 1983 Act.

Rule 21 provided: "(1) The tribunal shall sit in private unless the patient requests a hearing in public and the tribunal is satisfied that a hearing in public would not be contrary to the interests of the patient." (2) Except in so far as the tribunal may direct, information about the proceedings before the tribunal and the names of any persons concerned in the proceedings shall not be made public."

Section 12 of the Administration of Justice Act 1960 provided: "(1) The publication of information relating to proceedings before any court sitting in private shall not of itself be contempt of court except in the following cases:— (a) where the proceedings are brought under Part VIII of the Mental Health Act 1959, or under any provision of that Act authorizing an application or reference to be made to a mental health review tribunal or to a county court..."

His Lordship referred to the construction, put on the words "relating to proceedings" and "proceedings". In that context what was prohibited was the publication of information concerning the proceedings, such as witness statements, reports and accounts of interviews, but not the fact that the proceedings had been instituted. Apart from the fact that *prima facie* it was appropriate to adopt the same construction in relation to rule 21(2), that approach was reinforced by the fact that the rule appeared in that Part of the Rules concerned with the hearing, and the fact that until an application had been received by the tribunal and the proceedings before the tribunal, there were no proceedings before the tribunal. Furthermore, his Lordship did not consider that the rule should be construed to prohibit publication of the name of the applicant. In the absence of clearer words, the prohibition should not be so extended. What was prohibited was that he was concerned in the proceedings, not information from which it might be inferred that he was or would be so concerned.

Slightly different considerations applied to the publication of the tribunal's decision. Interim decisions were clearly part of the proceedings. In his Lordship's judgment the decision and its reasoning were protected from publication as part of the proceedings, but the result was not so protected.

With regard to the date of the hearing, bearing in mind the

prosecution's case that no charge ticket had been filed in respect of any of the four calls, the appellant's argument was correct. First, if the operator dishonestly omitted one or more material particulars (with the necessary intention), he committed an offence, but if he omitted all material particulars, which was in practice the only way in which the fraudulent system could be operated, he committed no offence.

Second, if, instead of being supplied with a pile of tickets, one was to be used for each call, the operator had been given a sheet on which the necessary details had to be filled in, *seriatim*, covering each of the four calls, the omission of one complete line of details on a sheet would amount to an offence, because the sheet in question would be an identifiable document. That was an example of a document which was not a charge ticket.

As soon as a local subscriber contacted the operator and asked to be connected to a foreign subscriber, it was the operator's duty to fill in the requisite details on one of the standard form tickets in the pile in front of him. It did not matter which ticket he filled in, although no doubt in practice it would be the one on top of the pile.

Each of the words in section 17 must be given a meaning if possible, and it was soot that the legislature had used the phrase "made or required" in sub-paragraph (a).

Their Lordships were of the opinion that as soon as the operator's duty arose, one of the standard printed forms became a document "required" for an accounting purpose.

The fact that the operator might choose to pick up the second form before him rather than the first, the two forms being identical, did not mean that no document was in existence.

Their Lordships concluded that the prosecution, therefore, were not obliged to do what, by definition, they could not do, namely to produce a charge ticket relevant to the telephone call referred to in each count. They had only to satisfy the jury that the appellant had dishonestly and for the purpose specified in the opening words of section 17, failed to complete a charge ticket by omitting material particulars from a document required for an accounting purpose.

Solicitors: Mr Colin R. Green, Milton Keynes.

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Solicitors: Mr Colin R. Green, Milton Keynes.

Acquittal was not on a technicality for defendant's costs order

Wareing v Director of Public Prosecutions
Before Lord Justice Woolf and Mr Justice Pill
[Judgment January 17]

Where a defendant accused of driving while the proportion of alcohol in his blood exceeded the prescribed limit was found to have no case to answer because the police officer had failed to inform him of the possibility of providing a urine sample rather than a blood sample, the court should not have refused to award him his costs out of central funds on the ground that he had been acquitted on a pure technicality which had no merit.

The Queen's Bench Divisional Court so held in allowing an appeal by way of case stated by Alan Wareing against a refusal by Thomas Cowling, a Metropolitan Stipendiary Magistrate sitting at Greenwich, to award him his costs out of central funds following his acquittal on a charge of driving while having excess alcohol in his blood, contrary to section 6(1)(a) and Schedule 4 of the Road Traffic Act 1972, as substituted by section 25 of and Schedule 8 to the Transport Act 1981.

Mr Nigel J. Ley for the appellant; Mr Peter Ader for the respondent.

MR JUSTICE PILL said that the appellant had failed to provide a specimen of blood after the Intoximeter machine aborted following the taking of a urine sample. He was not informed of the possibility of providing a sample of urine under section 8(4), as substituted.

The magistrate therefore found that he had no case to answer and acquitted him, not having taken into account paragraph 4(c) of Practice Note (Justices' Defendants' Costs) 1982 ([1982] 1 WLR 1447) which provides that "Where there is ample evidence to support a conviction, but the defendant is acquitted on a technicality which has no merit" said that the defendant could be

left to pay his own costs. The question was whether the failure of the police to follow the appropriate procedure under the Road Traffic Act 1972 could properly be regarded as a technicality within the meaning of the Practice Note.

The Act laid down a procedure which the police were required to follow. The procedure had not been followed in what was, in his Lordship's view, a material and significant respect.

To deprive a defendant of the choice between providing a blood or urine specimen could not be considered a technicality. If there was no consent the taking of a blood sample would be an assault.

It was impossible to say that the defendant had been acquitted on a technicality and impossible to say that the case came within paragraph 4(c) of the Practice Note.

Lord Justice Woolf agreed.

Solicitors: Sandams, South Norwood; DPP.

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Document can be falsified if not completed

Regina v Shama
Before Lord Justice Lloyd, Mr Justice Gausehouse and Mr Justice Pill
[Judgment December 6]

A document could be falsified on a true construction of section 17(1)(a) of the Theft Act 1968 where there was a duty to complete one of a number of standard printed forms and no other document was required. In such circumstances one of the standard printed forms could be considered a document "required" for an accounting purpose.

The Court of Appeal so held in dismissing an appeal by Abu Shama against his conviction on February 17, 1989 at Knightsbridge Crown Court (Mr Recorder Gerald Owen, QC and a jury) on four counts of false accounting on which he received concurrent sentences of 18 months imprisonment on each count.

Section 17 of the 1968 Act provides: "(1) Where a person dishonestly, with a view to gain for himself or another or with intent to cause loss to another,— (a) destroys, defaces, conceals or falsifies any account or any record or any document or any other thing which is required for any accounting purpose, he shall, on conviction on indictment, be liable to imprisonment for a term not exceeding seven years."

(2) For purposes of this section a person who... omits... a material particular from an account or other document, is to be treated as falsifying the account or document."

Mr Andrew G. Young, assigned by the Registrar of Criminal Appeals, for the appellant; Mr Andre de Moller for the Crown.

MR JUSTICE PILL, giving the judgment of the court, said that the appellant at the material time had been an international telephone operator employed by British Telecom plc.

The system of accounting was that each time a call was made the operator was required to fill in a form which had a number of printed figures and codes and was known as a charge ticket.

Particulars of the call were entered at appropriate places on the form which was then used for accounting purposes. The operator had a pile of forms in front of him.

The case against the appellant was that on four occasions in 1986 he had connected a London subscriber with an overseas subscriber without filling in the charge ticket required in each case. The four specific occasions were specimen counts.

The principal ground of appeal was that the facts disclosed no offence under section 17(1). The point that had been argued for the appellant was that the section could only apply to an identifiable document. Here there was no such document; indeed it was of the essence of

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Request to state case was late but valid

P & M Supplies (Essex) Ltd v Hackney London Borough Council
Before Lord Justice Woolf and Mr Justice Pill
[Judgment January 12]

An application to justices to state a case under section 111 of the Magistrates' Courts Act 1980 was made when it was sent by post in such circumstances that in the normal course of events it would arrive within the 21-day time limit laid down in section 111(2). Therefore, if such an application did not arrive within the time limit it was still effective.

The Queen's Bench Divisional Court so held in dismissing an appeal by P & M Supplies (Essex) Ltd against a refusal by Judge David, QC, at Chester Crown Court to grant leave to appeal to the crown court out of time against a conviction by Forthmole Justices on the ground that the appellant had already applied to the justices to state a case.

Mr Barry Cotter for the appellant; Mr David Pannick as *amicus curiae*.

LORD JUSTICE WOOLF said that the appellant was convicted by the justices on November 25, 1988 of one offence under the Consumer Protection Act 1987.

On December 14 an application for a case to be stated was sent by first class post to the justices clerk.

The time limit of 21 days within which the application had to be made under section 111(2) of the Magistrates' Courts Act 1980 expired on December 17. Unfortunately the application did not arrive until December 22. The time limit was absolute and could not be extended and the justices refused to state a case.

The appellant then applied to the crown court for leave to appeal out of time against conviction.

However, the judge took the view that as an application had been made to the justices to state a case, even though it was made late, an election to be made under section 111(4) and the appellant had lost its right to appeal to the crown court.

The result was that the appellant had lost both its right to apply for a case to be stated and also its right of appeal to the crown court.

However, the judge had not had the advantage of being referred to the decision of the Divisional Court in *R v Ton Justices, Ex parte Bowe* (unreported, June 3, 1986) where it was held that an application could comply with the time limit in section 111(2) if it was written and posted within 21 days even if it had not been received.

His Lordship would add that although the application could be regarded as having been made when it was sent, it must have been sent in such circumstances that

Stamina test ideal for Royal Athlete

By Mandarin

The prevailing heavy ground will ensure that stamina is at a premium at Newton Abbot today when two of the six races are run over 3 1/2 miles.

One runner who should be in his element, however, is the Jenny Pitman-trained Royal Athlete, who looks a fine prospect for the Sun Alliance Chase at the Cheltenham festival in March.

Royal Athlete won at the rewarding odds of 33-1 over today's distance when gamely pegging back Mrs Muck in the Long Walk Hurdle at Ascot last month.

Mrs Pitman then sent the seven-year-old over fences for the time at Leicester last Tuesday. Despite jumping stickily in the early stages, he warmed to his task on the final circuit and stayed on strongly to beat Randolph Crescent by 10 lengths.

That was an encouraging performance and he should carry too many guns for last House, who won over the course and distance, also last Tuesday, and Martin Pipe's Redally, beaten in a selling handicap chase at the same meeting.

No matter how Redally fares, Pipe should make his presence felt by claiming four of the other events.

The Wellington trainer can kick off with Silver King in the first division of the Darracombe Novices' Hurdle. The four-year-old nearly made all on his hurdling debut at Newbury last month but was caught in the closing stages by Star Of The Glen and went under by three-quarters of a length.

A reproduction of that form should enable him to beat the year-old Miriyoun, who was a creditable fourth behind Steppie Lane at Haydock earlier this month.

Pipe has an interesting representative in Kalshan for the second division of the novice hurdle. This six-year-old has had only one previous outing over hurdles and that was last season, at Folkestone, when trained by Frank Durr. He was in the lead and going well before falling two out, leaving Nice Dynasty to collect the spoils.

Kalshan was originally trained on the Flat by Michael Burt for the Aga Khan but failed to fulfil his early three-year-old potential, after making an impressive debut with a seven-length victory in a Ripon maiden event.

The best of his opponents today are likely to be Plausible, who failed to quicken

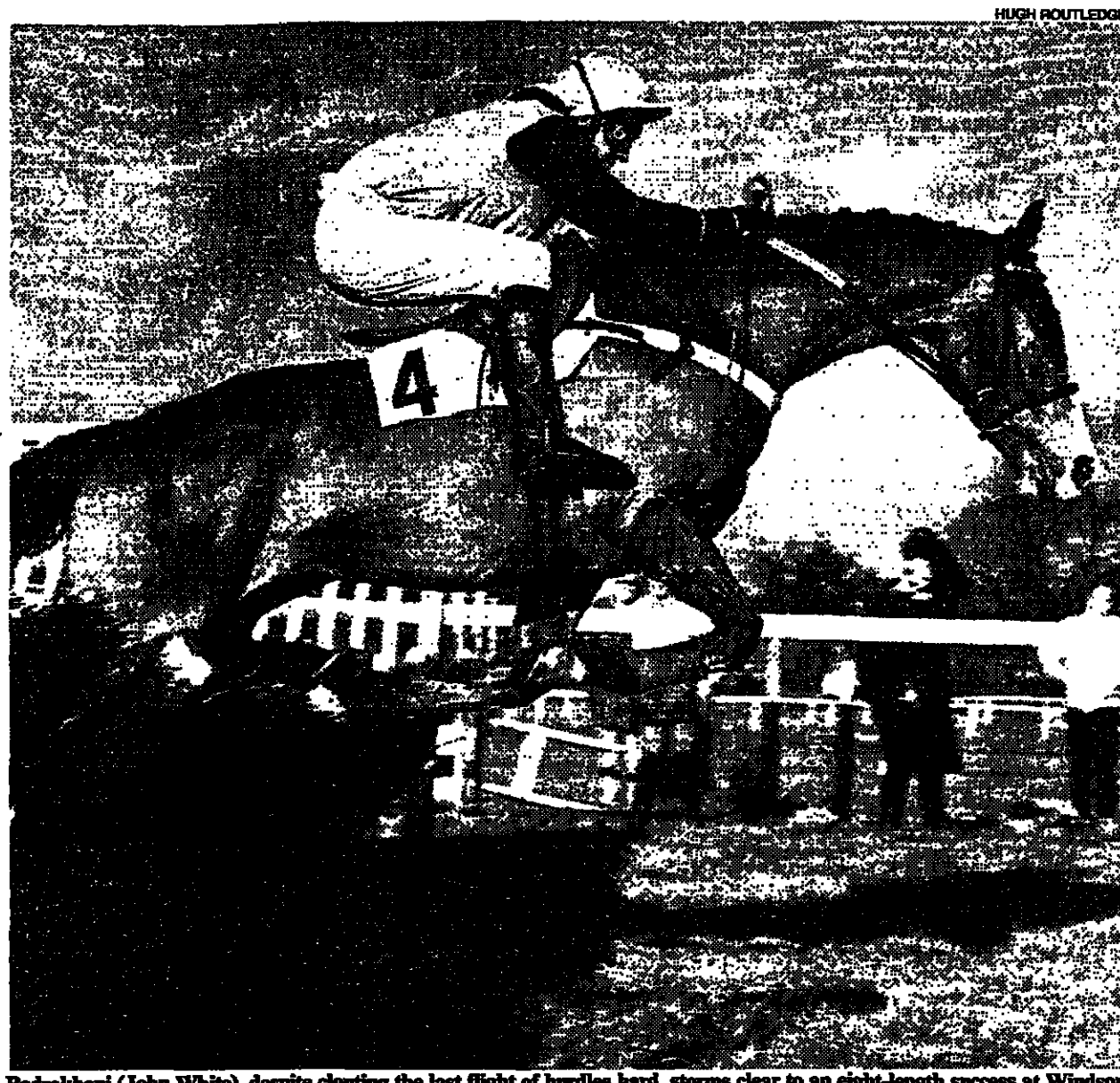
when runner-up to Webb's Wonder at Warwick last month, and Akdam, another with worthwhile form on the Flat. But this looks a fine opportunity for Kalshan to open his hurdling account, and he is my nap.

Pipe should also collect the moderate Knowles Hill Juvenile Selling Hurdle with Tres Sportif, while his Rein De Tout, rested after a successful early-season campaign which included three consecutive victories, is just preferred to Duckhaven in the Holbeam Handicap Hurdle.

Upper Lambourn trainer Charlie Nelson produced Sir Rufus to win an 11-furlong handicap by six lengths at Southwell's all-weather Flat meeting last week, and this useful four-year-old looks good value to defy a 5lb penalty at Lingfield Park this afternoon.

Ben Hanbury's Jacamar has already shown his ability to act on the Equitrac surface and, despite the presence of Dai Burchell's dual winner, Times Are Hard, can continue the good work in the Farnham Handicap.

Larking, trained by William Hastings-Bass, can get off the mark in the Tyrone Maiden Stakes.



Bedrakhani (John White), despite clouding the last flight of hurdles hard, storms clear to an eight-length success at Windsor

Evidence of Tote rigging at Lingfield

By Phil McLennan

Ladbroke's, Britain's biggest betting shop chain, is withholding payment of off-course Tote bets on the winner of the first race at Lingfield yesterday following suggestions that the dividend was manipulated.

The Tote has strong evidence of an attempted minor coup on the race, which failed, and is to re-examine its on-course strategy in the light of yesterday's events.

Big Finish, the only runner with tangible form, started 10-1 on for the five-runner Repulse Novices' Handicap Hurdle and won by 30 lengths. The winner paid 11-10, a record for the Tote, the third frank win dividend in six days, all at all-weather courses.

Clear indications that an attempt to create a false dividend had taken place came from Godfrey Webster, marketing director of the Tote. "Shortly before the off the screens at Lingfield were forecasting a win dividend of £1.10 on Big Finish but a £100 bet on an outsider pushed the potential dividend to the favourite to £2.10.

"Then, seconds before the off, a punter at Windsor races, probably an accomplice, tried to place £500 on Big Finish at the Tote betting office. But he hadn't done his homework as the office doesn't take bets at Tote odds."

The Dilson, of Ladbroke's, said: "We are investigating betting patterns on the race and are withholding payment pending the outcome of those investigations."

Conals, after making inquiries, is to pay out in full but William Hill is settling bets under its rules which allow a maximum dividend of four times the starting price equivalent.

Yesterday's incident comes only two days after Basic Farm's 14-1 on favourite, paid 6-5 against with the Tote at Southwell, At Lingfield on Friday, Don Keydrop paid 56-1 on the Tote after starting at 8-1.

Ladbroke's also withheld the Basic Farm dividend and, although paying out in full on off-course Tote bets, the firm was "not entirely happy" with the outcome of their investigations.

Auntie Dot to recoup the losses

From Our Irish Racing Correspondent, Dublin

Auntie Dot, trained at Sandbury by John Webber, chases the thirteenth victory of her career and her first over three miles in the Ir225000 Telecom Eireann Thymestes Handicap Chase at Gowran Park this afternoon.

Anthony Powell substitutes this afternoon for the suspended Martin Lynch, who rode her into third place behind Us And Joe at Leopardstown last Saturday.

Auntie Dot was backed down to 5-2 favourite on that day, but Lynch reported: "She was not the sort of feel that she usually does." She was outjumped at several of the fences by the top weight Hungry Harry and in the straight was only staying on at the end of the race.

A former winner of this race, Feltrim Hill had finished fourth in Auntie Dot's race and another to repossess is Lastofthebrowns who finished fifth, over a distance short of his best.

Top weight of 12 stone will be carried by Have A Barney, but his jumping let him down badly with successive falls in the space of 24 hours at Leopardstown over Christmas.

Auntie Dot has a fine chance to recoup the losses this time and her most serious rival could be last year's Leopardstown Chase winner, Barney Burnett.

John Webber has not tried to run Eileanan against the well-handicapped Cahervilla-hew in the Ir26,000 Eireann Handicap Chase.

Panto Prince takes short break before Leopardstown tilt

By Christopher Goulding

Panto Prince, who has finished in the first three in all his seven outings this season, is expected to have his next outing in the Vincent O'Brien Gold Cup at Leopardstown on February 17.

"He is having a well-earned rest at the moment," said Chris Popham, the nine-year-old's trainer, at Windsor yesterday. "I think the Leopardstown track will suit him very well, and he seems to stay three miles without any problems these days."

The three-mile chase has attracted 11 entries, including four from Britain. Bishop's Farm, Kildimo and Nick The Brief, Popham, who is both optimistic and excited about having his

returned to Lambourn yesterday. "He has now recovered from a bout of colic, which he came down with after the race," the trainer reported. "I have no immediate plans for the horse, but his long-term future will be over fences."

The Lambourn trainer had nothing but compliments for the Irish hospitality he received after Dis Train was found to be a sick horse. "After the vet had treated my horse he refused any payment," said Chris. "In this country, I recently received a bill for one of the big trucks from a vet for putting a horse of mine down."

The ebullient trainer had further news of his rising stars. "Toby Tobias goes for the Golden Spurs Chase at Doncaster on Saturday, which should think the Cheltenham Festival. We will wait for another year before we go for the Gold Cup with him."

Golden Freeze, runner-up to John Sovereign in the Mackeson Gold Cup, is now back in work after injuring a knee when falling on the road.

Nicky Henderson continued a much-needed change of fortune after the tragic loss of The Frodoan in the week-end when Bedrakhani effectively took the Rays Novices Hurdle. "He did that well," enthused Charlie Morlock, Henderson's assistant trainer. "A tilt at the Triumph Hurdle is now a distinct possibility."

Young Nicholas, a former head horse for the Henderson-trained See You Then, three times winner of the Champion Hurdle, followed up his recent Nottingham success in the Winclesham Novices Chase.

The nine-year-old, now trained by John Roberts at Taunton, carried the colours of Ray Safe, the building maintenance manager with 30 years service at Cheltenham racecourse. Safe, who has been an owner for 15 years, said: "I have derived considerable enjoyment as an owner over the years and I'm hopeful one day that I will see my colours carried to victory at Cheltenham."

Results from yesterday's three meetings

Windsor			
Going: good to firm (hurdles)	1.15 (2m 30yd) hilly, 1. BADRAKHANI (J White) 4-5 (5/2), 2. Bedrakhani (J White) 5-1 (3/1), 3. Panto Prince (C Popham) 10-1 (3/1), 4. Panto Prince (C Popham) 10-1 (3/1), 5. Panto Prince (C Popham) 10-1 (3/1).	2.30 (2m 30yd) hilly, 1. BADRAKHANI (J White) 4-5 (5/2), 2. Bedrakhani (J White) 5-1 (3/1), 3. Panto Prince (C Popham) 10-1 (3/1), 4. Panto Prince (C Popham) 10-1 (3/1), 5. Panto Prince (C Popham) 10-1 (3/1).	3.30 (2m 30yd) hilly, 1. BADRAKHANI (J White) 4-5 (5/2), 2. Bedrakhani (J White) 5-1 (3/1), 3. Panto Prince (C Popham) 10-1 (3/1), 4. Panto Prince (C Popham) 10-1 (3/1), 5. Panto Prince (C Popham) 10-1 (3/1).
Ludlow			
Going: good to firm	1.15 (2m 30yd) hilly, 1. NATHAN BLAKE (R McEntee) 4-5 (5/2), 2. NATHAN BLAKE (R McEntee) 4-5 (5/2), 3. NATHAN BLAKE (R McEntee) 4-5 (5/2), 4. NATHAN BLAKE (R McEntee) 4-5 (5/2), 5. NATHAN BLAKE (R McEntee) 4-5 (5/2).	2.30 (2m 30yd) hilly, 1. NATHAN BLAKE (R McEntee) 4-5 (5/2), 2. NATHAN BLAKE (R McEntee) 4-5 (5/2), 3. NATHAN BLAKE (R McEntee) 4-5 (5/2), 4. NATHAN BLAKE (R McEntee) 4-5 (5/2), 5. NATHAN BLAKE (R McEntee) 4-5 (5/2).	3.30 (2m 30yd) hilly, 1. NATHAN BLAKE (R McEntee) 4-5 (5/2), 2. NATHAN BLAKE (R McEntee) 4-5 (5/2), 3. NATHAN BLAKE (R McEntee) 4-5 (5/2), 4. NATHAN BLAKE (R McEntee) 4-5 (5/2), 5. NATHAN BLAKE (R McEntee) 4-5 (5/2).
Lingfield Park			
Going: standard	1.15 (2m 30yd) hilly, 1. NATHAN BLAKE (R McEntee) 4-5 (5/2), 2. NATHAN BLAKE (R McEntee) 4-5 (5/2), 3. NATHAN BLAKE (R McEntee) 4-5 (5/2), 4. NATHAN BLAKE (R McEntee) 4-5 (5/2), 5. NATHAN BLAKE (R McEntee) 4-5 (5/2).	2.30 (2m 30yd) hilly, 1. NATHAN BLAKE (R McEntee) 4-5 (5/2), 2. NATHAN BLAKE (R McEntee) 4-5 (5/2), 3. NATHAN BLAKE (R McEntee) 4-5 (5/2), 4. NATHAN BLAKE (R McEntee) 4-5 (5/2), 5. NATHAN BLAKE (R McEntee) 4-5 (5/2).	3.30 (2m 30yd) hilly, 1. NATHAN BLAKE (R McEntee) 4-5 (5/2), 2. NATHAN BLAKE (R McEntee) 4-5 (5/2), 3. NATHAN BLAKE (R McEntee) 4-5 (5/2), 4. NATHAN BLAKE (R McEntee) 4-5 (5/2), 5. NATHAN BLAKE (R McEntee) 4-5 (5/2).

NEWTON ABBOT

Selections		By Mandarin	
1.15 Silver King.	2.45 Royal Athlete.	1.15 Silver King.	2.45 ROYAL ATHLETE (nap).
1.45 Super Express.	3.15 KALSHAN (nap).	1.45 Super Express.	3.15 KALSHAN (nap).
2.15 Tres Sportif.	3.45 Rein De Tout.	2.15 Tres Sportif.	3.45 Rein De Tout.

By Michael Seely
1.15 Silver King, 2.45 ROYAL ATHLETE (nap).
The Times Private Handicapper's top rating: 2.45 LAST HOUSE.

Going: heavy

1.15 DARRACOMBE NOVICES HURDLE (Div I: £1,276; 2m 150yd) (8 runners)	
1. SILVER KING (J White) 4-5 (5/2), 2. SILVER KING (J White) 4-5 (5/2), 3. SILVER KING (J White) 4-5 (5/2), 4. SILVER KING (J White) 4-5 (5/2), 5. SILVER KING (J White) 4-5 (5/2).	6. SILVER KING (J White) 4-5 (5/2), 7. SILVER KING (J White) 4-5 (5/2), 8. SILVER KING (J White) 4-5 (5/2), 9. SILVER KING (J White) 4-5 (5/2), 10. SILVER KING (J White) 4-5 (5/2).

1989: LINDSEY 6-11-1 R Dumoucy (25-1) J Jenkins 12 ran
Standard Pairs at Royal Ascot (1m 4f, 1m).
PUNCHED BACK kept Kyrion Knight by an easy 15m in a Devon (2m 11, noty miler latest, SILVER KING, a winner on the Flat in France, made last and headed home when faced to Star Of The Glen at Windsor (2m 100yd, good). Likely to improve.

FORM FOCUS

1.15 DARRACOMBE NOVICES HURDLE (Div I: £1,276; 2m 150yd) (8 runners)
1. SILVER KING (J White) 4-5 (5/2), 2. SILVER KING (J White) 4-5 (5/2), 3. SILVER KING (J White) 4-5 (5/2), 4. SILVER KING (J White) 4-5 (5/2), 5. SILVER KING (J White) 4-5 (5/2).

1989: LINDSEY 6-11-1 R Dumoucy (25-1) J Jenkins 12 ran
Standard Pairs at Royal Ascot (1m 4f, 1m).
PUNCHED BACK kept Kyrion Knight by an easy 15m in a Devon (2m 11, noty miler latest, SILVER KING, a winner on the Flat in France, made last and headed home when faced to Star Of The Glen at Windsor (2m 100yd, good). Likely to improve.

FORM FOCUS

1.15 DARRACOMBE NOVICES HURDLE (Div I: £1,276; 2m 150yd) (8 runners)
1. SILVER KING (J White) 4-5 (5/2), 2. SILVER KING (J White) 4-5 (5/2), 3. SILVER KING (J White) 4-5 (5/2), 4. SILVER KING (J White) 4-5 (5/2), 5. SILVER KING (J White) 4-5 (5/2).

1989: LINDSEY 6-11-1 R Dumoucy (25-1) J Jenkins 12 ran
Standard Pairs at Royal Ascot (1m 4f, 1m).
PUNCHED BACK kept Kyrion Knight by an easy 15m in a Devon (2m 11, noty miler latest, SILVER KING, a winner on the Flat in France, made last and headed home when faced to Star Of The Glen at Windsor (2m 100yd, good). Likely to improve.

FORM FOCUS

1.15 DARRACOMBE NOVICES HURDLE (Div I: £1,276; 2m 150yd) (8 runners)
1. SILVER KING (J White) 4-5 (5/2), 2. SILVER KING (J White) 4-5 (5/2), 3. SILVER KING (J White) 4-5 (5/2), 4. SILVER KING (J White) 4-5 (5/2), 5. SILVER KING (J White) 4-5 (5/2).

1989: LINDSEY 6-11-1 R Dumoucy (25-1) J Jenkins 12 ran
Standard Pairs at Royal Ascot (1m 4f, 1m).
PUNCHED BACK kept Kyrion Knight by an easy 15m in a Devon (2m 11, noty miler latest, SILVER KING, a winner on the Flat in France, made last and headed home when faced to Star Of The Glen at Windsor (2m 100yd, good). Likely to improve.

LINGFIELD PARK

Selections		By Mandarin	
1.00 Noble Soul.	2.30 Jackaroo.	1.00 Noble Soul.	2.30 Jackaroo.
1.30 Swing North.	3.00 Silks Domino.	1.30 Swing North.	3.00 Silks Domino.
2.00 Larking.	3.30 Sir Rufus.	2.00 Larking.	3.30 Sir Rufus.

Michael Seely's selection: 3.30 Sir Rufus.

Going: standard

Draw: 6f-1m, low numbers best

1.0 ARMAHAN HANDICAP (3-Y-O: £2,680; 7) (4 runners)

1. 1989-4 GREAT SERVICE (J White) 4-5 (5/2), 2. 1989-4 GREAT SERVICE (J White) 4-5 (5/2), 3. 1989-4 GREAT SERVICE (J White) 4-5 (5/2), 4. 1989-4 GREAT SERVICE (J White) 4-5 (5/2).	5. 1989-4 GREAT SERVICE (J White) 4-5 (5/2), 6. 1989-4 GREAT SERVICE (J White) 4-5 (5/2), 7. 1989-4 GREAT SERVICE (J White) 4-5 (5/2), 8. 1989-4 GREAT SERVICE (J White) 4-5 (5/2).
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1989: LINDSEY 6-11-1 R Dumoucy (25-1) J Jenkins 12 ran
Standard Pairs at Royal Ascot (1m 4f, 1m).
PUNCHED BACK kept Kyrion Knight by an easy 15m in a Devon (2m 11, noty miler latest, SILVER KING, a winner on the Flat in France, made last and headed home when faced to Star Of The Glen at Windsor (2m 100yd, good). Likely to improve.

1.30 ANTRIM CLAIMING STAKES (3-Y-O: £2,280; 6f) (8 runners)

1. 1989-4 GREAT SERVICE (J White) 4-5 (5/2), 2. 1989-4 GREAT SERVICE (J White) 4-5 (5/2), 3. 1989-4 GREAT SERVICE (J White) 4-5 (5/2), 4. 1989-4 GREAT SERVICE (J White) 4-5 (5/2).	5. 1989-4 GREAT SERVICE (J White) 4-5 (5/2), 6. 1989-4 GREAT SERVICE (J White) 4-5 (5/2), 7. 1989-4 GREAT SERVICE (J White) 4-5 (5/2), 8. 1989-4 GREAT SERVICE (J White) 4-5 (5/2).
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1989: LINDSEY 6-11-1 R Dumoucy (25-1) J Jenkins 12 ran
Standard Pairs at Royal Ascot (1m 4f, 1m).
PUNCHED BACK kept Kyrion Knight by an easy 15m in a Devon (2m 11, noty miler latest, SILVER KING, a winner on the Flat in France, made last and headed home when faced to Star Of The Glen at Windsor (2m 100yd, good). Likely to improve.

2.0 TYRONE MAIDEN STAKES (3-Y-O: £2,384; 7f) (8 runners)

1. 1989-4 GREAT SERVICE (J White) 4-5 (5/2), 2. 1989-4 GREAT SERVICE (J White) 4-5 (5/2), 3. 1989-4 GREAT SERVICE (J White) 4-5 (5/2), 4. 1989-4 GREAT SERVICE (J White) 4-5 (5/2).	5. 1989-4 GREAT SERVICE (J White) 4-5 (5/2), 6. 1989-4 GREAT SERVICE (J White) 4-5 (5/2), 7. 1989-4 GREAT SERVICE (J White) 4-5 (5/2), 8. 1989-4 GREAT SERVICE (J White) 4-5 (5/2).
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1989: LINDSEY 6-11-1 R Dumoucy (25-1) J Jenkins 12 ran
Standard Pairs at Royal Ascot (1m 4f, 1m).
PUNCHED BACK kept Kyrion Knight by an easy 15m in a Devon (2m 11, noty miler latest, SILVER KING, a winner on the Flat in France, made last and headed home when faced to Star Of The Glen at Windsor (2m 100yd, good). Likely to improve.

2.45 WOLBORG NOVICES CHASE (2,866; 3m 2f 100yd) (11 runners)

1. 1989-4 GREAT SERVICE (J White) 4-5 (5/2), 2. 1989-4 GREAT SERVICE (J White) 4-5 (5/2), 3. 1989-4 GREAT SERVICE (J White) 4-5 (5/2), 4. 1989-4 GREAT SERVICE (J White) 4-5 (5/2).	5. 1989-4 GREAT SERVICE (J White) 4-5 (5/2), 6. 1989-4 GREAT SERVICE (J White) 4-5 (5/2), 7. 1989-4 GREAT SERVICE (J White) 4-5 (5/2), 8. 1989-4 GREAT SERVICE (J White) 4-5 (5/2).
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FORM FOCUS

1.15 DARRACOMBE NOVICES HURDLE (Div I: £1,276; 2m 150yd) (8 runners)
1. SILVER KING (J White) 4-5 (5/2), 2. SILVER KING (J White) 4-5 (5/2), 3. SILVER KING (J White) 4-5 (5/2), 4. SILVER KING (J White) 4-5 (5/2), 5. SILVER KING (J White) 4-5 (5/2).

3.15 DARRACOMBE NOVICES HURDLE (Div II: £1,562; 2m 150yd) (13 runners)

1. 1989-4 GREAT SERVICE (J White) 4-5 (5/2), 2. 1989-4 GREAT SERVICE (J White) 4-5 (5/2), 3. 1989-4 GREAT SERVICE (J White) 4-5 (5/2), 4. 1989-4 GREAT SERVICE (J White) 4-5 (5/2).	5. 1989-4 GREAT SERVICE (J White) 4-5 (5/2), 6. 1989-4 GREAT SERVICE (J White) 4-5 (5/2), 7. 1989-4 GREAT SERVICE (J White) 4-5 (5/2), 8. 1989-4 GREAT SERVICE (J White) 4-5 (5/2).
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FORM FOCUS

1.15 DARRACOMBE NOVICES HURDLE (Div II: £1,562; 2m 150yd) (13 runners)
1. SILVER KING (J White) 4-5 (5/2), 2. SILVER KING (J White) 4-5 (5/2), 3. SILVER KING (J White) 4-5 (5/2), 4. SILVER KING (J White) 4-5 (5/2).

3.45 HOLBEAM HANDICAP HURDLE (2,052; 3m 2f 110yd) (15 runners)

1. 1989-4 GREAT SERVICE (J White) 4-5 (5/2), 2. 1989-4 GREAT SERVICE (J White) 4-5 (5/2), 3. 1989-4 GREAT SERVICE (J White) 4-5 (5/2), 4. 1989-4 GREAT SERVICE (J White) 4-5 (5/2).	5. 1989-4 GREAT SERVICE (J White) 4-5 (5/2), 6. 1989-4 GREAT SERVICE (J White) 4-5 (5/2), 7. 1989-4 GREAT SERVICE (J White) 4-5 (5/2), 8. 1989-4 GREAT SERVICE (J White) 4-5 (5/2).
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FORM FOCUS

1.15 DARRACOMBE NOVICES HURDLE (Div II: £1,562; 2m 150yd) (13 runners)
1. SILVER KING (J White) 4-5 (5/2), 2. SILVER KING (J White) 4-5 (5/2), 3. SILVER KING (J White) 4-5 (5/2), 4. SILVER KING (J White) 4-5 (5/2).

4.00 DOWN APPRENTICE HANDICAP (2,243; 1m 4f) (8 runners)

1. 1989-4 GREAT SERVICE (J White) 4-5 (5/2), 2. 1989-4 GREAT SERVICE (J White) 4-5 (5/2), 3. 1989-4 GREAT SERVICE (J White) 4-5 (5/2), 4. 1989-4 GREAT SERVICE (J White) 4-5 (5/2).	5. 1989-4 GREAT SERVICE (J White) 4-5 (5/2), 6. 1989-4 GREAT SERVICE (J White) 4-5 (5/2), 7. 1989-4 GREAT SERVICE (J White) 4-5 (5/2), 8. 1989-4 GREAT SERVICE (J White) 4-5 (5/2).
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4.30 DOWN APPRENTICE HANDICAP (2,243; 1m 4f) (8 runners)

1. 1989-4 GREAT SERVICE (J White) 4-5 (5/2), 2. 1989-4 GREAT SERVICE (J White) 4-5 (5/2), 3. 1989-4 GREAT SERVICE (J White) 4-5 (5/2), 4. 1989-4 GREAT SERVICE (J White) 4-5 (5/2).	5. 1989-4 GREAT SERVICE (J White) 4-5 (5/2), 6. 1989-4 GREAT SERVICE (J White) 4-5 (5/2), 7. 1989-4 GREAT SERVICE (J White) 4-5 (5/2), 8. 1989-4 GREAT SERVICE (J White) 4-5 (5/2).
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4.50 DOWN APPRENTICE HANDICAP (2,243; 1m 4f) (8 runners)

1. 1989-4 GREAT SERVICE (J White) 4-5 (5/2), 2. 1989-4 GREAT SERVICE (J White) 4-5 (5/2), 3. 1989-4 GREAT SERVICE (J White) 4-5 (5/2), 4. 1989-4 GREAT SERVICE (J White) 4-5 (5/2).	5. 1989-4 GREAT SERVICE (J White) 4-5 (5/2), 6. 1989-4 GREAT SERVICE (J White) 4-5 (5/2), 7. 1989-4 GREAT SERVICE (J White) 4-5 (5/2), 8. 1989-4 GREAT SERVICE (J White) 4-5 (5/2).
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5.00 DOWN APPRENTICE HANDICAP (2,243; 1m 4f) (8 runners)

1. 1989-4 GREAT SERVICE (J White) 4-5 (5/2), 2. 1989-4 GREAT SERVICE (J White) 4-5 (5/2), 3. 1989-4 GREAT SERVICE (J White) 4-5 (5/2), 4. 1989-4 GREAT SERVICE (J White) 4-5 (5/2).	5. 1989-4 GREAT SERVICE (J White) 4-5 (5/2), 6. 1989-4 GREAT SERVICE (J White) 4-5 (5/2), 7. 1989-4 GREAT SERVICE (J White) 4-5 (5/2), 8. 1989-4 GREAT SERVICE (J White) 4-5 (5/2).
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5.30 DOWN APPRENTICE HANDICAP (2,243; 1m 4f) (8 runners)

1. 1989-4 GREAT SERVICE (J White) 4-5 (5/2), 2. 1989-4 GREAT SERVICE (J White) 4-5 (5/2), 3. 1989-4 GREAT SERVICE (J White) 4-5 (5/2), 4. 1989-4 GREAT SERVICE (J White) 4-5 (5/2).	5. 1989-4 GREAT SERVICE (J White) 4-5 (5/2), 6. 1989-4 GREAT SERVICE (J White) 4-5 (5/2), 7. 1989-4 GREAT SERVICE (J White) 4-5 (5/2), 8. 1989-4 GREAT SERVICE (J White) 4-5 (5/2).
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6.00 DOWN APPRENTICE HANDICAP (2,243; 1m 4f) (8 runners)

1. 1989-4 GREAT SERVICE (J White) 4-5 (5/2), 2. 1989-4 GREAT SERVICE (J White) 4-5 (5/2), 3. 1989-4 GREAT SERVICE (J White) 4-5 (5/2), 4. 1989-4 GREAT SERVICE (J White) 4-5 (5/2).	5. 1989-4 GREAT SERVICE (J White) 4-5 (5/2), 6. 1989-4 GREAT SERVICE (J White) 4-5 (5/2), 7. 1989-4 GREAT SERVICE (J White) 4-5 (5/2), 8. 1989-4 GREAT SERVICE (J White) 4-5 (5/2).
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6.30 DOWN APPRENTICE HANDICAP (2,243; 1m 4f) (8 runners)

1. 1989-4 GREAT SERVICE (J White) 4-5 (5/2), 2. 1989-4 GREAT SERVICE (J White) 4-5 (5/2), 3. 1989-4 GREAT SERVICE (J White) 4-5 (5/2), 4. 1989-4 GREAT SERVICE (J White) 4-5 (5/2).	5. 1989-4 GREAT SERVICE (J White) 4-5 (5/2), 6. 1989-4 GREAT SERVICE (J White) 4-5 (5/2), 7. 1989-4 GREAT SERVICE (J White) 4-5 (5/2), 8. 1989-4 GREAT SERVICE (J White) 4-5 (5/2).
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7.00 DOWN APPRENTICE HANDICAP (2,243; 1m 4f) (8 runners)

1.

Dishing it up in and out of satellite's orbit

As everyone knows, ITV is paying the Football League more than £44 million for its exclusive four-year contract, won in fierce competition with BSB and the BBC. Those two are paying the FA £6 million a year for their joint exclusive deal to cover the FA Cup and England internationals, and BSB also has a separate contract with the Scottish League to show live Scottish League matches.

Recently in the scramble for football, Sky has agreed a £3 million contract with the League for the Zenith Data Systems Trophy and the Leyland Daf Cup. In all, with overseas sales and video rights, English football is at present getting an income of around £21 million a year from television and related sources. And that, of course, does not include the money sponsors and perimeter advertisers pay quite happily when guaranteed television coverage.

As all that suggests, the satellite revolution means wealth for some sports. Football, which is the nation's and the world's most popular sport, is undoubtedly certain to be the main beneficiary. Boxing will be another.

Even football, however, should be aware that television, and I say this as a television man, will exact its price. Competition is pushing up the money available to the sport. But the losers in the competition will not be playing by the cosy rules which Jonathan Martin, the BBC's head of sport, and I used to play by 15 years ago.

For the moment, Sky has bought the Zenith Data Systems Cup. But it seems to me that it is not likely to sell many dishes, and indeed one wonders how much the delights of Scottish football will help to sell BSB's dish to English audiences. For the moment, ITV has the Football League; I think football needs to be aware that it is quite

From 1964 until last year, John Bromley was at the heart of ITV sports coverage. He is now the chairman of the independent production company, TSL. In the last of three articles, he looks at the likely effects of the satellite explosion

likely that its rivals might decide the only way to compete is by looking to Europe.

Already there is a link-up between leading European teams and satellite television stations, and I can easily foresee a scenario of a European super league being shown on, and possibly backed by, satellite television.

Probably, it will be done by slimming down the domestic programme to create space for it. That, surely, has to come, anyway — the first division cannot stay in its present format, there has to be more breathing space than it offers at the moment.

But if the game's administrators do not show themselves to be flexible — and it is not the first word which springs to mind when discussing them — and able to encompass a European super league within their own orbit, it could easily happen outside their jurisdiction.

Either way, I do not think that the UEFA prohibition on showing other country's matches live across a national border stands a chance of surviving 1992. But if that is something the game's authorities need to be aware of, the possibilities of a European league are also something for both ITV and BBC to be alert to.

Football, however, has a product everyone wants. So, to some extent, does boxing. If I were running BSB or Sky, I would say we have got to have football or world-class boxing. Already Sky has poached the latest Tyson bout, outbidding ITV for live and recorded rights, so the battle is truly on.

One of the big breakthroughs

in our bid for live, quality and exclusive action came with Frank Warren's boxing shows because he was willing to believe that, if the quality of the show was good enough, people would want to go even if it was on television. That has now been established.

After football and boxing, however, the competition for the other sports may be slightly less intense. Top-quality events will always have a market. ITV at present has four big sports — football, athletics, boxing and snooker. Now that the BBC has signed a new six-year contract with snooker, I think ITV's enthusiasm for that might wane a bit.

On the other hand, now that it has won the contract for the 1991 World Cup, I suspect it will provide formidable opposition to the BBC for the next domestic rugby union contract. I also think it is possible that rugby league, which has been very successful for Granada and Yorkshire TV, might attract a network bid from ITV.

Golf also has the capacity to expand. It is quite popular now, but by no means massive. The BBC holds a seven-year contract on the big events in Britain, which tends to take the sport out of the market-place at present.

The Government's proposal to free the listed events from their protected status opens up a whole new ball game. I am sure ITV and satellite stations will compete hard for several of them because they fill all the aims of top quality, live and now exclusive action, and deliver the



Bromley: an independent view audience profile the advertisers want.

I am sure, for example, that, providing ITV and Channel Four can keep a relationship which permits complementary programming, which I think is vital, they will make a big pitch for Wimbledon, which is a jewel: two weeks of outstanding world-class quality, with a great audience profile. You could do a lot of business around that.

The same thought, undoubtedly, will occur to the satellite companies. But will sport sell big events to satellite television? I think there would be a public outcry if Wimbledon went on satellite. And Wimbledon certainly does not need satellite money. So why put your event on satellite where very few people can watch it?

In America there is no main event of any significance on satellite television. In this country, too, sponsors have more influence than in America, and I

am sure they will want their sports on the main channels rather than in a satellite ghetto, so I think that pattern will be followed over here. The main events will continue to be covered by terrestrial channels, even if they have to pay more for them. Which leaves cricket in quite an interesting situation.

The game just does not lend itself to a commercial network, as I discovered in the early days (literally) of LWT when we had outbid BBC for the 1968 Gillette Cup Final. It was the first big event Jimmy Hill and I bought, and it was a disaster.

We had been on the air less than four weeks when the big day arrived for a new, nervous television company. I did my research and discovered that the previous finals had finished between 6.10pm and 6.25pm at the very latest. So we scheduled the programme until 6.45pm, to give us plenty of time to wrap it all up.

We were being followed by David Frost live. And there we were as tea-time passed, watching this tremendous final developing as Warwickshire chased Sussex's total. At 6.40, I thought: "This is going to go on." And with three overs remaining in the most exciting final of all time, we had "Now we are leaving Lord's."

We raced round to David Frost's producer. "Take the last few minutes into your show." But they would not do it. The switchboard was jammed. We became the channel that pulled the plug on the closing overs of the Gillette Cup Final. And we ended up in court.

In the contract, we had the option for a second year, but the MCC said that after that shambles and farce it was going back to the BBC. So LWT sued MCC, and Hill and I ended up in the dock.

The judge decided that the option was not valid because we had not done the job satisfactorily. Of course, he was quite right. The ITV network is not geared to show cricket. Commercial breaks are a menace in cricket. It needs acres of coverage, which we cannot afford to give it.

Cricket has always argued that it has been underpriced by television. I have always said that cricket should go down on its hands and knees every day and thank God for the BBC because the amount of exposure which the BBC gives cricket and its blue riband sponsors is something no one else could do, or, given the small audiences, would want to do in a commercial world. And cricket only gets its sponsors because of the airtime it gets on BBC.

With the Sunday League and the Benson and Hedges going on to satellite, it looks as if the TCCB can say: "This disproves your theory." But I wonder what the sponsors will think about that? For the moment, it is only a toe in the water, because the Benson and Hedges highlights will stay on BBC, and that competition received the smallest audience of any of the competitions, anyway, but I cannot imagine Cornhill or NatWest being happy unless the satellite coverage was additional to the BBC's, rather than a replacement.

So far, I have only mentioned the traditional sports. And as big television sports, I believe those are the ones which will continue to make an impact. Television is now continually searching for the new snooker, or even the new American football, although that has a much bigger cult reputation than its actual audience justifies. But I cannot see one which will make a big impact.

If there is one, it will be because the sport has charis-

matic star performers who sell it to the viewers. I am convinced that the huge boom in televised show jumping owed everything to the star quality of Foxhunter; and it was no coincidence that snooker's initial explosion coincided with the emergence of Alex Higgins.

There is a parallel search for new faces in front of the camera. Gazing into my crystal ball has not yielded anyone to tip as the new Dickie Davies or Desmond Lynam. The environment has changed, anyway, we do not have the magazine programmes, and so I suspect that we will begin to see people becoming identified with a single sport — Elton Welsby with football, for example.

One thing I would like to see is not a new sport but a new type of programme — a serious investigative one, which will look at sport behind the scenes and be sport's equivalent of *World in Action* or *Panorama*, whether it deals with drugs, violence or what is going on at Manchester United. Adrian Metcalfe produced such a programme, *Sports Arena*, at LWT in the early days, fronted by Michael Parkinson, but the network did not want it and it was taken off.

There has always been some reluctance to do it because of the fear that if you start asking awkward questions you suddenly find your access restricted. But that is a risk which has to be taken, and I do not think it is a serious one, anyway. If it was, some newspapers would be banned from every football ground in the country.

If someone in television will grasp the nettle, they will be taking a first step to making sports coverage in the Nineties even better than it was in the Eighties, and I am looking forward to that with undisguised relief.

Interview: Peter Ball

RUGBY UNION: EXCITING TIMES AHEAD AS THE FIVE NATIONS' CHAMPIONSHIP SWINGS INTO ACTION WITH THE IRISH AT TWICKENHAM AND THE FRENCH IN CARDIFF

England aiming for repeat of the glorious grand slam

By David Hands
Rugby Correspondent

The approach of the five nations' championship, particularly one which begins a new decade, is invariably an exciting time. For England, the excitement is tinged with suspicion about what might be, but invariably is not, and comparisons which will be made with a decade ago when they won their second grand slam since the Second World War, and their eighth in all.

The championship programme over the next two months is exactly the same as that undertaken in 1980. In that year, Bill Beaumont's England team beat Ireland 24-9 at Twickenham on January 19, then moved on to a 17-13 win over France in Paris on February 2. A fortnight later came the notorious 9-8 win over Wales, and the season was rounded off on March 15 with a glorious 30-18 win at Murrayfield against Scotland.

This year, the match dates are almost exactly the same. It is enough to bring out any England supporter, by now injured against disaster, in a hot flush. Among those at Twickenham on Saturday to see if the first hurdle, against Ireland, can be overcome, will be Peter Wheeler, the hooker in Beaumont's team and later captain of England himself

before his international career ended in 1984.

"It's the same as it was then," Wheeler said. "You have Ireland and Wales in disarray and France in a tangle of their own making, as they sometimes are. Only Scotland seem to be on any positive, progressive path towards the World Cup, and England face them last. If they can go to Murrayfield with three wins behind them, they must have a great chance."

"It's difficult not to be optimistic, even allowing for the caution borne of past experience. The Irish have knocked us off a pedestal before but I would put a lot of money on England winning the championship this year, particularly when you look at the stability of the side."

"How much they will miss Dean Richards is hard to say, but the majority of the players have been around. They have a very solid front five and a lot of skill in the backs, plus the confidence of those who played in a successful British Lions party."

In 1980, Wheeler was surrounded by such players as Fran Cotton, Tony Neary and Roger Uttley, England's present coach — players whose experience occasionally appeared to have been accumulated despite, rather than because of, the national selectors.

But it is his belief that the players at international level then were no less competitive than today, though the modern player may be fitter. "What the leagues have done in England is to spread the competitiveness to more people, and help push them on to the next stage of the ladder," he said.

Wheeler's view of the Scots is shared by Jacques Fouroux, the French coach. "They are the most coherent, the most inventive and the most faithful to a particular style of play," Fouroux, whose team play Wales in Cardiff on Saturday, said. "We haven't won in Edinburgh for 10 years, and we will go there with more chance of losing than winning."

"England have beaten us only twice in 10 years and, last year, in a crucial match, they lost to Wales in Cardiff, where we have won for the last 10 years. The physical potential might be on England's side, but we have the potential of our flair. The English are big and mean and they know what the priorities are for winning a game. But they've shown nothing new."

It is interesting that Fouroux talks of flair since it is a popular theme, both in Britain and across the Channel, which he has been busy coaching out of his players for the past decade. Nevertheless,

it keeps breaking out, which suggests that France have it in them to play more than one style of game.

Fouroux, too, has indulged this season in speculative selection, which has hinted at "horses for courses" — a theme found to a small degree in England's experiment in the front row against Fiji in October, and publicly admitted by John Ryan, the Welsh coach, in his XV to play France.

In an amateur context, it is a dangerous game which may easily lead to discontent if players who do not earn their living from their sport find themselves enduring a yo-yo international existence, they may well decide to walk away from it.

The French used the visit of the Australians last autumn as a testing ground before reverting to the old guard for the five nations — an old guard, though, spiced by the presence of two youngsters, Devergie and Roumat. The New Zealanders used their tour of Wales and Ireland as a journey during which, in Wheeler's words, "they learned more about themselves and about us than we did about them."

England, too, have recalled their older tight forwards, which suggests that a hard lesson has been learned — there is no substitute for experience. Whether Wales are right, in responding directly to a French team packed with big forwards, will be determined by their results.

But their policy does suggest a certain incoherence. Phil Fugh, the Neath flanker, here and gone after one cap against New Zealand, Phil Davies moved to the blind-side after a life-time at No. 8 or lock.

In a genuine "horses for courses" policy, anyway, you would pick a squad rather than a team for the game, and nominate your XV on the morning of the match — perhaps depending upon whether it was raining or not.

I hope that, by the end of the 1990s, we are no nearer that state of affairs than we are today because, if we are, the world loyalty will have been well and truly buried, and the world's best players will probably be playing for pay.



Cross purposes: Santy tries to boot clear for Hampshire while Joy attempts to keep the ball

Warwick fall to Welshmen

By Michael Austin

Warwick University 10
Aberystwyth University 13

Aberystwyth, those inveterate travellers in the Commercial Union UAU championship, head for Brunel next Wednesday to challenge for a quarter-final place after beating Warwick in bright and breezy conditions at Coventry yesterday. Despite lacking five first-choice players, Aberystwyth produced a performance as

bracing as the weather, but needed to quell a Warwick revival which incorporated 15 scrummages near the line in the second half.

Aberystwyth benefited from a makeshift half-back partnership that featured Evans, a third-choice scrum half drafted in the

previous evening, and Parfitt, the stand-off half switched from his regular role as full back, appreciated a precise service from Evans and hoisted towering wind-blown kicks to Warwick's discomfort.

The Aberystwyth back row flourished, and a try by Geoff Jones, following a scrum pick-up from Morgan, the No. 8, was an appropriate reward for his efforts. This established a 13-4 lead with seven minutes remaining, before Warwick's recuperative powers yielded a last-minute try by Marshall from a back-on, together with a wide-angled conversion from Perkins.

Warwick, comprehensively beaten by Harlequins under-21s when fielding a weakened team last Saturday, trailed from the twentieth minute, but matched Aberystwyth's two tries.

They drew inspiration from Pickett, who provided the impetus from a tapped penalty for a try, correctly awarded by Peter Facey, a vigilant referee, after Backshall grounded the ball on the line. The most fluent score belonged to Parfitt, whose jinking run to the line was crowned by a delicate left footed conversion across the wind by Ellis Jones.

SCORERS: Warwick University: Tries: Backshall, Marshall; Conversion: Parfitt. Aberystwyth University: Tries: Parfitt, G. Jones, G. Jones, D. Bennett, A. England, M. Facey, P. Pickett.

WARWICK UNIVERSITY: R. Perkins; R. Hogg, J. Tolcher, R. Bennett, D. Marshall; M. Ellis, S. Bunsell; K. Long, T. Backshall, M. Pickett, C. Jones, D. Bennett, A. England, M. Facey, P. Pickett.

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Absence of key men hits Army

By David Hands

Hampshire 37
The Army 22

The Army, inter-services champions last season, moved into action at Basingstoke yesterday without several senior players, among them Dean Ryan, the England B No. 8, whose services they will not have for much longer.

Ryan, who is still resting after bruising a previously broken arm early this month, is to leave the army in April and intends to spend the summer in New Zealand where a season with Bay of Plenty should add to his rugby education.

Since Gordon-Lennox and Steele of last season's side, have also departed, the Army, the Scotland B flanker, will not be fit for another three weeks there was an inexperienced air about the Army, when in bright but chilly conditions, they went down by four goals, a try and three penalties goals to two goals, a try and two penalties.

Hampshire, who face a delayed London play-off against Middlesex at Waspas on January 31, took the chance to move the ball around against tackling that bore little resemblance to what Middlesex may offer.

Their early lead was whittled away before Wilson crossed for the try which gave them a 19-13 half-time advantage. From there the county went away, capitalizing on hesitation among all the army backs except Rodder.

Oakley charged down Spawart's kick to score and both centres were involved in Perry's try. Hampshire were happy, too, to give Santy (whose deeds have attracted the attention of clubs considerably higher in the league than Havant) goal-kicking practice whenever possible and his success rate of just over 50 per cent saved off any prospect of any army recovery, despite Layard's late score.

SCORERS: Hampshire: Tries: Garrett, Bates, Wilson, Oakley, Perry, Conwell; Conwell, Pennington, Santy (2). The Army: Tries: Wheeler, Dean Ryan, P. Pickett; Conversion: Spawart (2). Penalties: Spawart (2).

WARWICK UNIVERSITY: R. Perkins; R. Hogg, J. Tolcher, R. Bennett, D. Marshall; M. Ellis, S. Bunsell; K. Long, T. Backshall, M. Pickett, C. Jones, D. Bennett, A. England, M. Facey, P. Pickett.

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Referees confront violence

In an era when incidents of violence on the rugby field receive greater exposure than ever before, the London Society of Rugby Football Union Referees — the biggest society of its kind in the world — debated at its meeting this week the possibility of a three-point code of conduct for referees to follow when faced with foul play (David Hands writes).

The obvious concern felt by the society's leading officials at the harm violence does to the image of the game was matched by a feeling that perhaps their own members do not implement the law as they have the power to do.

None the less, a well-attended meeting, at the Institute of Child Health on Tuesday night, identified three areas of the game which, it was felt, ought to justify immediate dismissal without warning. These were

head-betting, deliberately kicking an opponent on the ground, and travelling some distance to join in a fracas.

There was also debate about premeditated team violence, which is now inextricably linked with the notorious 99 call during the visit to South Africa of the 1974 British Isles.

A straw poll taken at the end of the debate — the second part of a presentation on foul play made by Keith Griffiths (one of London's leading referees) — suggested that the society's views should be made known to the Rugby Football Union, though any future action will be determined by the society's executive committee.

During the debate, use of the "sin bin" as an alternative mode of punishment was dismissed as a "cop-out". Fred Ellis, the chairman of the society's laws and coaching sub-committee,

who chaired the evening, said: "The point was made that some referees get on together when it appears they see things happening in front of them. The main topic was whether we, as a society, ought to give a lead to our members and, through the RFU, to all referees societies."

It is interesting that the RFU society to contact the RFU directly, although it is more likely that the views of the meeting will be laid before the RFU referees advisory panel.

"The law gives referees absolute power already to send off who they like," Don Rutherford, the RFU technical administrator, said. "Though no code of conduct exists in Britain for officials, the French have a set of fixed penalties. The society was also aware of Rugby League's efforts to ensure that foul play receives the punishment it merits."

of the game."

Watching Evans has always been an experience in glimpsing the trace of cockiness required in the role he will assume on Saturday against France. Therefore he does not dwell on his predecessors in the job. "If you did that the nerves would be rattling."

He admired Bennett's ability to beat people on the proverbial sin bin and insists: "We won't be afraid to open it out, to go from anywhere to attack. Welsh rugby has stagnated in recent years because the ball has not been moved. There has been almost a negative approach."

Not so, during his tenure of office at No. 10, he said.

Confidence from new man at No. 10

By Peter Bills

The latest product of Max Boyce's famous mythical fly-half factory is imbued with the same key quality as his esteemed predecessors. David Evans exudes confidence just as Cliff Morgan, David Watkins, Barry John, Phil Bennett and Jonathan Davies did before him.

Evans is filled with belief, in himself and those around him. It is, in a sense, an arrogance and yet, in another way, it is not. He just has immense confidence that Welsh rugby can demonstrate its great quality and intrinsic thrust.

The decision to put the Cardiff player in the No. 10 jersey

so beloved of Welsh schoolboy dreams surprised him.

"Of course you play anywhere for your country, but you always know in your heart where you prefer to be. For me, that has to be outside-half."

He was always a No. 10 for school and university. Only when he went up to Oxford and found Brian Smith already in the position did he move to centre.

But Cardiff have regarded him as a stand-off half and Wales, too, have now recognized the famous qualities required in the role: vision, speed of thought and movement, a sound kicking technique and the ability to launch a threequarter line.

But there is one other facet, the ability to do the unpredictable. That cannot be acquired by coaching; it is God's gift. Jonathan Davies demonstrated the trait gloriously in scoring the unlikelyst of tries against Scotland at Cardiff in 1988. Phil Bennett hallmarked the quality in starting that magnificent try for the Barbarians against New Zealand. Intuitive skill and an eye for the dramatic — Evans it even if his international career is in its infancy.

Yet he does not fear the challenge. "I love the position because you are more involved in the game. At centre you have to rely on somebody giving you the ball, but I love making decisions and being a bigger part

Wind-assisted Sheffield success

By Michael Stevenson

Sheffield University 14
UMIST 9

Sheffield University thoroughly deserved to win this delayed UAU qualifying match and next have a difficult away tie against Loughborough University.

The game was marred by the diagonal gale which favoured Sheffield in the first half, during which they scored all their points; they prospered only when they foresaw aimless kicking and kept the ball in their hands. UMIST, without several key players, kicked away their chances in the second half.

Sheffield were soon in command territorially, but it was

deep into the first half before they scored, though Hall had been close with several penalty attempts. Granger, in the centre, accelerated and just beat Elliot's cover tackle to score by the posts. Hall converted.

The second try came from a set scrum — Humphreys stole away on the blind, flanked past one man and beat the cover.

Sheffield's third try was created by much the best move of the match, which illustrated the superiority of the Sheffield back row. Bohan, Paul, Horler and then Haley handled confidently before Haley made the break; Horler linked adroitly and Bohan kept his scoring pass.

In the second half Lily kept the ball high in the air for his

pack to hunt under it. After a Lily penalty Sheffield conceded a curious try. From a scrum near their line Sheffield heeled but were going back so fast that nobody thought to touch the ball down over the home line, a duty which Elliot the UMIST scrum half performed with relish for Lily to convert.

SCORERS: Sheffield University: Tries: Granger, Humphreys, Bohan. Conversion: Lily. UMIST: Tries: Elliot. Conversion: Lily.

WARWICK UNIVERSITY: R. Perkins; R. Hogg, J. Tolcher, R. Bennett, D. Marshall; M. Ellis, S. Bunsell; K. Long, T. Backshall, M. Pickett, C. Jones, D. Bennett, A. England, M. Facey, P. Pickett.

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Student's fare in Cardiff

As an entrée to the main five nations' course this weekend, the Welsh open the students' play France on the Cardiff club tonight under the captaincy of Simon Bryant, the Cambridge University flank

WORLD STUDENT GAMES

Universiade unveils sponsorship deals to attract funding

By Peter Davenport

Organizers of the World Student Games, to be held in Sheffield next year, yesterday unveiled a package of new sponsorship opportunities to attract 500 businessmen in an attempt to raise additional funding.

Norman Adsett, deputy chairman of the organizing company, Universiade GB Limited, is the man drafted in to reinvigorate the organization following the crisis over cash shortages and the dismissal of its chief executive. He aims to raise at least a further £500,000 from the private sector over the next three months.

At the meeting yesterday, he also made an appeal for further secondments of staff to the organizing body in order to bolster resources during the 18-month run up to the Games in July 1991, which are expected to attract 6,000 competitors from 130 nations.

A variety of aid packages have been received by Universiade since the New Year financial crisis, and pledged secondments are already valued at £700,000.

To follow are a series of regional presentations in February and March, at which

companies will be offered sponsorship packages ranging in price from £5,000 to £250,000 pounds. In return for money, they will see the name of their company used in the promotion of the Games; the more they pay, the larger the exposure.

Adsett, who was a private sector member of the Universiade board before being appointed deputy chairman, with responsibility for its day-to-day operations, strongly believes that the private sector is the key to the Games moving towards a successful conclusion.

"We are confident in the ability of Universiade to stage the Games, as promised, and it is with the help of the private sector throughout the region that we expect to move forward," he said.

"The commitment already being made by the local authority, in providing magnificent games facilities and financial support, is now being followed by substantial offers of support from local companies, which will help us through the short term."

Local businesses have already come up with £500,000 in sponsorship, which is help-

ing to finance Universiade while it seeks to conclude the contracts to televise the Games around the world. This, it is then hoped, will open the way for large deals with international companies.

David Foggin, the Universiade marketing director, is to travel to the Commonwealth Games in Auckland to conclude negotiations with overseas television companies. Talks are still going on with Eurosport, who have expressed their intent to show coverage of the Games each night.

It was announced earlier this week that three of Britain's top sports administrators — Sir Arthur Gold, Dick Palmer and Ron Ems — were to help in raising sponsorship to meet the costs of running the Games, estimated at around £27 million.

In a statement yesterday, Universiade said: "Major sponsorship negotiations, underway for some months, await confirmation of coverage prior to a conclusion. Sponsorships conditional upon TV negotiations are expected to be announced within the first half of this year."

Shogun Tyson drops into Tokyo for his next showdown



Just in case anyone doubts Mike Tyson's title to be the undisputed world No. 1 heavyweight, he displays a banner making it clear to Japanese viewers at a Tokyo hotel. He intends to make it even clearer in a Tokyo ring on February 11, when he defends his title against Buster Douglas.

GOLF: SHAKY START FOR LYLE BUT BONUS FOR SOUTH AFRICANS IN EUROPE

Tour move unlocks door again

By Mitchell Platt
Golf Correspondent

The FGA European Tour is on the threshold of signing a contract which will reopen the door for golfers from South Africa to participate in the qualifying school, from which they have been excluded in Spain because of an anti-apartheid ban.

A switch from La Manga to Montpellier, in France, will enable South Africans not only to participate at the European circuit to enter the school.

"That will be a bonus, although it was not the prime reason for leaving La Manga after eight years," Andy McFee, a tournament director on the tour, said.

"We had reached the end of the five-year contract with La Manga and it seemed appropriate to investigate other venues, especially those in France, where there has been such rapid growth as far as golf is concerned."

It was learned during the Spanish Open at Pedernera in May 1985, that the government in Spain had imposed a ban on players from South Africa.

The ban immediately barred South Africans from taking the conventional route via the qualifying school on to the PGA European Tour. Their one option was to play well on the South African Tour and write for invitations to European events, although eligible for only seven.

It is understood that the new contract will be signed on January 25 with the qualifying school being played at La Grande Motte and Massane.

"They are both excellent courses close to the airport," McFee said.

The move to France will strengthen the relationship of the FGA European Tour with the PGA Europe organization which has been instrumental in the increase of professional tournaments in that country.

Rebound leaves Lyle's ball in embarrassing position

From Patricia Davies, Palm Springs

Sandy Lyle, professional No. 7 of the 128 playing in the \$1 million Bob Hope Chrysler Classic here, gave his three amateur partners hope when his opening drive in the first round at Bermuda Dunes yesterday ended up no more than 50 yards away, just off the end of the tee.

Using a new, graphite-shafted driver, with a beautiful persimmon head, Lyle, who had been peppering the roof of a distant house on the practice ground with the owner peeking anxiously from behind the double glazing, caught the ball flush.

Unfortunately, the ball caught a big tree on the left equally flush and ricocheted back towards the tee, leaving the Scot with just under 500 yards still to go. There were smiles all round as someone offered Lyle "a mulligan" — another go — and

his partners, less nervous than they had been, all outdrove him easily.

"I think I could do some damage today," Lyle had said after hitting some majestic shots in practice, but tree-felling was not what he had in mind.

Standing beside a motley crew of amateurs with a wide assortment of swings and stances, his striking caught the eye, but only until a one-armed left-hander snatched up, hit two or three perfect drives and nonchalantly sauntered away, not wishing to use up all his good shots too early.

Lyle himself took time out to sort out Larry Gaffin, one of the self-made Gaelic brothers, a leading country-and-western act. He was plagued by a high, looping slice, which the former Open and Masters champion

quickly turned into a lower, less life-endangering hook.

Later in the day, country-and-western fans crowding the fairways a little too close for a glimpse of their hero might be grateful. The spirit of Spiro Agnew, lethal to anyone within a 20-yard radius, especially off the tee, haunts most pro-am.

Bermuda Dunes, one of four courses in use during the tournament, was the top celebrity spotting spot yesterday, with Bob Hope, whose buggy features the famous ski-jump nose, due to tee off with Steve Jones, the defending champion. Making up the group were former Presidents Gerald Ford and Tip O'Neill, former Speaker of the House of Representatives. Luckily, Jones majored in government in college.

Wright has right pedigree

From John Hennessy, Montego Bay

To meet Pamela Wright over a lunch table here beside the glittering Caribbean is to recognize that she has an impressive second string to her bow this week in the Jamaica Classic, the opening event in the Ladies Professional Golf Association season. Laura Davies adds solid support.

Wright, aged 25, not only has a talent for the game, flowing from an impeccable Scottish pedigree, but also a sensible head on her shoulders.

She was the runner-up of the year in the United States last season, an honour nobody can take away from me," she says, "and it won't let me get above my station. For the moment, I'm just concerned to see I continue where I left off."

Wright, who has been a professional, of course, was in 39th place with \$77,951. Sadly, she has become so acclimatized to the American way of life that she shall see little

of her at home. She would like to play in the British Open but getting a release from the LPGA is a serious stumbling block.

Wright first held a golf club when she was four, encouraged by her father, James, the professional at Abney, and her mother, Janet, four times Scottish champion, and four times a Curtis Cup player.

In due time she was awarded a scholarship to Arizona State University and has lived in Phoenix ever since. After university, she entered the 1988 LPGA qualifying school and finished a commendable sixth. She did well in her first tournament, finishing 22nd, and thereafter charted a steady pioneering course until the last two tournaments in the United States. She was then runner-up to Nancy Lopez in Los Angeles (to become top rookie), and ninth the following week in San Jose.

She still regards her father, along with Ruth Jensen, at

Camelback, Phoenix, as her teacher. "I will ring him up," she explains, "and tell him my hands are dropping, say, or I'm swinging tight, and he'll tell me try this or that. Apart from that, I pretty well do my own thinking, but only on the practice ground. During a tournament I never think swing."

She was unable quite to achieve one of her goals last year — to finish in the top 10 on the LPGA tour — but thirteenth place and \$181,574 in prize-money was a pretty good consolation prize, particularly as her commitment to the European professional tour restricted her to only 18 LPGA tournaments.

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Honeyghan lined up for title tilt

By Bryan Stiles

Lloyd Honeyghan was yesterday handed the opportunity to make British boxing history by winning his third world title. He will challenge Mark Breland, the American, for his World Boxing Association championship, and a million-dollar purse, at Wembley Arena on March 3.

The last remaining doubts surrounding the contest were removed yesterday after Breland and his trainer, Joe Fariello, flew into London at 6am, and checked out the arena and the security arrangements.

Breland's manager, Shelley Finkle, had been worried about the safety of his boxer following the disturbance after the Alan Minter-Marvin Hagler world title clash there in the early 1980s, when bottles were thrown into the ring.

Fariello was happy about the arena but was less than pleased with Honeyghan, the 29-year-old Londoner, who has had eight world title bouts in his career.

"I have seen two Lloyd Honeyghans — the one who had a great fight to take the title of Don Curry, and the one who came off his seat and hit Johnny Bumpass as he was getting off his stool," Fariello said. "We are prepared for the best and the worst Lloyd Honeyghan."

Breland and Honeyghan will be fighting for the biggest non-heavyweight purse ever offered in Britain, and they will bring an impressive record to the ring they have won 11 world title bouts between them.

Honeyghan, who has previously held the World Boxing Council and the International Boxing Federation championships, was dethroned by Marlon Starling in Las Vegas last February.

In the build-up to the contest, the pair will share the same training camp near Miami Beach in Florida.

RUGBY LEAGUE

Howard quits Army for Salford

By Keith Macklin

Tony Howard, a former captain of the British Army Under-19 and Under-21 rugby union XV's, has signed professional forms for Salford.

Howard, a centre-three-quarter, aged 21, was also being pursued by St Helens, Warrington and Wakefield Trinity, and played a trial with Warrington during the season. He has played for the Army Senior XV and for the Combined Services.

Widnes have rejected an offer from St Helens for their try-scoring winger, Brinwah Kebbie, the former Broughton Park Rugby Union winger.

The Widnes secretary, John Stringer, said the St Helens offer was well below the Widnes valuation.

Carlisle, who dismissed their coach, Tommy Dawes, early this week, have put his assistant, Keith Currie, in temporary charge. Currie is expected to appoint Cameron Bell, of New Zealand, as coach within the next week.

Another New Zealand coach, Mike McLennan, will take up duties at St Helens next week on crutches. He has crushed his foot in an accident at work.

John Myler, the Swinton and former Widnes utility player, has declined a transfer to Workington because of the expense of travelling involved.

Keith Atkinson, the Oldham forward, claimed last night that he was twice bitten by an opposing player before he was sent off for throwing a punch in Sunday's Six Counties Challenge Cup against Huddersfield.

Atkinson was dismissed following an incident involving the Huddersfield forward, Simon Kenworthy.

The Oldham board has decided to support Atkinson's claim, and the player will be accompanied to the disciplinary hearing by the club coach, Tony Barrow. "We will definitely appeal," a club official, Jim Wilson, said.

The Widnes district amateur Rugby League club, Simms Cross, has signed Chris Middlehurst, the former Runcorn Highgate captain, for £200 in what is believed to be the first paid professional transfer to an amateur club. Runcorn will offer the money to charity.

FOOTBALL

FA clears Wheldon of breaking rules

By Chris Moore

Ken Wheldon, the managing director of Birmingham City, was yesterday cleared by a Football Association disciplinary committee of infringing FA regulations by selling tickets on the day of the club's third division match at Blackpool last September.

The three-man commission, headed by Bill Fox, the president of the Football League, considered police evidence before accepting Wheldon's explanation that the tickets had been ordered the previous day.

"The commission were satisfied with the explanation regarding a small number of tickets being passed to and paid for by a supporter of the club, and therefore no further action is being taken," Eric Dinnie, the FA disciplinary secretary, said.

There was a technical infringement of the rules, which Wheldon admitted, but a misunderstanding. We would expect the club to be extra careful in future."

Ardiles admiration for non-stop Southampton

By Steve Atkinson

Southampton may have attracted many admirers this season for their all-action attacking style but they have not won any important silverware since collecting the FA Cup in 1976.

If the Littlewoods Cup was the trophy cupped at the Dell last night however it will not surprise Osvaldo Ardiles, the Argentinean manager of Swindon Town who on Tuesday night fought gallantly but ultimately in vain before losing the fourth round replay 4-2 after extra time as Southampton progressed to a home quarter-final with Oldham Athletic.

Swindon, who occupy the highest league position in their history — they are third in the second division — controlled the first half without scoring and controlled the first half on Tuesday night, with goals from Alan McLaughlin and Steve White in the 35th and 37th minutes.

Southampton recovered both their composure and the deficit in the second half; a fierce defence from Brian Horne and a gentle prod from Paul Rideout taking the match into extra time when Southampton's prolific pair of Rodney Wallace and Matthew Le Tissier added a goal apiece to their season's joint tally, which now stands at 30.

"Southampton are the best team I have seen this season going forward and that includes Liverpool and Arsenal. They can win the Littlewoods Cup," Ardiles said to endorse the Southampton manager, Chris Nicholls's, own thinking.

His team remains unbeaten at home since the visit of Millwall on August 19, the opening day of the season and it is to Swindon's credit that their brace of goals were the first that Southampton had conceded in the competition.

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Harford signs for Derby but Forest fail in the market

By Dennis Signy and Dennis Shaw

Derby County completed the signing of Mick Harford from Luton Town yesterday as their near neighbours, Nottingham Forest, tried unsuccessfully to bring two newcomers to the City Ground. Attempts by Brian Clough to sign Gary McAllister and David Currie for an outlay of nearly £2 million ended in temporary frustration.

The Forest manager was ready to pay £1.1 million to Leicester City for McAllister and £750,000 to Barnsley for Currie but neither deal could be completed before the Littlewoods Cup tie with Tottenham Hotspur. The McAllister deal was said by the player's agent, John Holmes, to have hit a last-minute hitch. "It looks as though the deal will go on ice for a short time," Holmes said.

Forest's move for Currie, a goal-scoring forward, appeared to be near completion, but the player returned to Yorkshire without completing. "Negotiations are continuing but a lot has to be sorted out before a deal can be finalized," Ronnie Fenton, Clough's assistant, said.

Mick Harford, the Luton Town forward who missed the first half of the season after undergoing operations on an

injured ankle, signed for Derby in a £480,000 transfer to end Arthur Cox's long search for a tall partner for Dean Saunders.

David Evans, the former Luton chairman, who conducted the transfer negotiations as one of the two directors delegated to deal with team matters, said Harford had been "a fantastic pro" in his five years at Kennilworth Road but had suffered many injury problems and was always worried about playing on the artificial surface.

He played only 33 League games out of 60 in the past 18 months, scoring seven goals. "That is not a sufficient strike rate," Evans said. Harford is set to make his debut for County against Forest on Saturday.

Evans said he would meet Jim Ryan, who was appointed Luton's manager last week, today to discuss the playing structure of the club. "There is money available, but only for quality players," he said. Luton had 41 professionals after the sale of Harford and Roy Wegerle to Queen's Park Rangers for £1 million, still the largest number in the League.

Evans criticized Wegerle's lack of goals, the signing on

loan of Mal Donaghy from Manchester United — "an unmitigated disaster, they never come back in anything" — and the defensive style of the team under Ray Harford, the previous manager.

Evans said Luton's future was with youngsters, "not bringing in has-beens". He predicted they would finish in a mid-table position.

Brian Gayle has been transferred to Ipswich Town from Manchester City for £350,000. Gayle, aged 24, was signed by Manchester City from Wimbledon for £325,000 by their former manager, Mel Machin, at the start of last season and made 66 first-team appearances for City.

Machin made him City's captain at the start of this season, but he has not figured in the team since Machin was dismissed and Howard Kendall took over. Kendall may now make a move to sign Adrian Heath from Aston Villa.

Colchester United have failed in their bid to sign Nicky Morgan from Stoke. The clubs agreed terms at £40,000 but the forward, whom Colchester manager, Mick Mills, was hopeful of recruiting from his former club, has decided against the move.

FAs may unite for championship bid

By Steve Acteson

The football associations of Wales, Scotland, and both Northern and the Republic of Ireland are to discuss mounting an audacious bid to stage the 1996 European championship — even in the face of a possible counter-bid by the English FA.

In Dublin, Tony O'Neill, the general secretary of the Football Association of Ireland, said that the plan was "still in the embryonic stage and nothing hard and fast".

It will, however, be explored further when Ernie Walker, secretary of the Scottish FA, and his counterpart from Belfast, David Bowen, are invited by the originator of the idea, Alun Evans, secretary of the Welsh FA, to hold exploratory talks when they gather in Stockholm in a fortnight for the draw for the 1992 championships in Sweden.

O'Neill said that without Scotland or Northern Ireland, the scheme would not be viable. "Alun Evans first contacted me last October to see if we could do it on a sharing basis in the way Belgium and Holland are hoping to do and also in the way that the World Cup of rugby will be held next

year in these islands," he said. O'Neill admitted there were obstacles to overcome, among them the question of how many of the host teams would qualify automatically. He said: "Only one team can qualify as hosts and obviously that is a problem we have not yet addressed; but for us it is the staging of such a prestigious event that is the really important thing."

Another disadvantage might prove to be the trend towards all-seat stadiums. "UEFA are not as tough as FIFA on that line," O'Neill said, adding that the four venues he and Evans had in mind were Lansdowne Road in Dublin, Windsor Park in Belfast, Cardiff Arms Park and Hampden Park.

At Lancaster Gate, David Bloomfield, a spokesman, said that the English FA was waiting for the Taylor report on hooliganism before considering its strategy.

He did not think that the smaller countries' bid would weaken any attempt by England to hold the competition in 1996. "What they do is up to them," he said.

Leeds are accused by Blackburn

The manager of Blackburn Rovers, Don Mackay, has accused Leeds of gamesmanship after studying a video of the last-minute penalty miss that cost his team a point at Ewood Park last Saturday.

David May skied the spot kick over the bar as Leeds held on to win 2-1 and Mackay said: "The video shows Gordon Strachan going into the box three times to talk to the referee."

"Vinny Jones went in once and their keeper, Mervyn Day, walked out of the box to say something to a linesman and then stood a yard in front of his goal line. It was a disgraceful piece of gamesmanship and totally intimidating for the penalty-taker."

Alan Robinson, the referees' spokesman, will appear before the Football Association disciplinary committee today, charged with bringing the game into disrepute.

The charge arises from comments made by Robinson — who is public relations officer for the Referees Association — in a newspaper article after the stormy first division match between Arsenal and Norwich, which ended in a brawl.

Italy, the World Cup hosts, have decided to extend the contract of their national team manager, Azzeglio Vicini, until 1992 in a show of confidence before next June's finals.

● NAPLES: Diego Maradona threatened to make an Italian journalist, who criticized him, eat his newspaper, during an angry confrontation at a television station.

"You should be ashamed of yourself, if you know what shame means. I'll make you eat this newspaper!" Maradona told the Naples journalist, Giuseppe Pacileo.

Pacileo, from the Naples daily, *Mattino*, had given Maradona a 3.5 out of 10 for his performance in last Sunday's league match against Udinese. Maradona, who was due to make a broadcast with Pacileo on Monday, first brandished a copy of *Mattino* then threw it at him.

Welsh make little of an injury to Allen

By Owen Jenkins

The Welsh rugby union team held its final training session before Saturday's international against France with a 90-minute workout at Sophia Gardens, Cardiff, which concentrated on moves and tactical options.

There was a slight scare when the second row and new cap, Andrew Allen, had to leave to receive stitches to a cut finger but he resumed and will take the field on Saturday. The Neath second row, Gareth Llewellyn, has been drafted in, however, as a precaution. John Ryan, chairman of selectors and coach, said: "The surgeon has assured us he'll be OK and we are sure that he will be able to play."

The forwards experimented with a blindside flanker, Phil

Buoyant Elliott's demand to Coe

From David Powell
Athletics Correspondent
Hamilton

Peter Elliott yesterday challenged Sebastian Coe to race him over 1,500 metres a fortnight before they meet at the distance in the Commonwealth Games. Elliott performed a small miracle in breaking the 1,000 metres record set by Peter Snell 26 years ago — and the confidence it brought had him calling for Coe to be brought on.

Until Elliott hit town, Snell's New Zealand all-coners' record for 1,000 metres had stood since 1964, the year that he set the world mile record in Auckland. It is in Auckland that the Games start on Wednesday, and there, 10 days later, that Coe hopes to end his international career with a gold medal in the 1,500 metres.

Elliott's run yesterday dwarfed anything which Coe has produced in his preparatory races for the Games. On a day so blustery that the women's 200 metres was run with a tailwind of 6.2 metres per second (the legal limit for records is 2mps), Elliott was only 4.12sec outside Coe's world best, a time which Coe reminded us last week that he rated above any of his record-breaking performances.

Elliott reduced by 0.3sec the time set by Snell and equalled by John Walker, the 1976 Olympic 1,500 metres champion. The Rotherham man recorded 2min 16.30sec, without company for the last lap and in a wind so capricious that, at one point in the evening, the pole vault apparatus was blown to the ground.

Inspired, he said, by watching a television documentary about Arthur Lydiard, Snell's coach, the previous evening, Elliott ran the last 200 metres in 27sec, then announced that in the final warm-up meeting before the Games, in Auckland on Saturday, he would appear in the 1,500 metres.

Coe, the Olympic 1500 metres champion of 1980 and 1984, said in Sydney after winning a 500 metres race on Saturday, that he was considering the race in Auckland this Saturday. Elliott, whose philosophy is at variance with the way Coe and Overt avoided each other in the 1980s, said he would welcome a pre-Games race against an opponent, who, together with the Kenyan, Wilfred Kirochi, represents the greatest obstacle to his first international championship gold medal.

Elliott, the Seoul Olympic silver medal winner said: "The better the weather, the better it will be — I hope Seb runs because then we will find out how good a shape we are in. To beat Seb on Saturday would be a great confidence boost."

While Coe has been satisfied with his preparations, Elliott, too, has enjoyed a run of good form. He beat Steve Cram in the 2,000 metres race on grass in Durham three weeks ago, and beat Walker



Elliott: breaking a long-standing record in Hamilton

by 4sec in an 800 metres last weekend.

Elliott was asked if he had ever felt so fit. "No, prior to this race I've done some of the best training sessions I've ever done," he said. And, making light of the effect the weather had on his time, an improvement of 0.17sec on his own best, he said: "Whenever I train in Rotherham or Barnsley it's always like this."

There has been more than the weather to make Elliott feel at home. Staying with friends, this joiner by trade has kept his mind off the medals by building a fence. It makes a change from climbing over them, which is what he had to do to train on Christmas Day when his home track was closed.

Tony Jarrett, the only Commonwealth high hurdler with a chance, albeit small, of upsetting Colin Jackson, returned from minor injury to

win in 13.50sec, though Jackson was not in the field.

Eastman Martin's last lap speed left Jack Backner a distant second in the 3000 metres. Martin has not been put off by his pitiful 5,000 and 10,000 metres double attempt in Seoul and is having another go in Auckland. "Some sessions I have done recently put a hole in the ones I was doing before I broke the British 10,000 metres record," Martin said after winning in 7min 53.90sec.

Paul Head passed his pre-competition best three times in the hammer. His 72.10 metres for victory, with his fellow Englishman, Dave Smith, on 71.80 metres, confirms they could challenge Sema Carin, of Australia, for gold.

Like Elliott, Jane Annett, of England, set a New Zealand all-coners' record — in the women's discus, improving her best by 1.34 metres to 55.52 metres.

Scots' champion not British

By Richard Eaton

Anthony Gallagher, the Scottish national badminton champion, is likely to miss the Commonwealth Games starting in Auckland next week unless he can acquire a British passport by midday today.

Gallagher, born in the Republic of Ireland, has lived in Scotland for the last 22 years but still has an Irish passport, making him ineligible for the Games.

Gallagher had apparently not realized this until a few days ago. His only hope is that there will be something of a bureaucratic miracle, enabling him to acquire naturalization within 24 hours. If he is

successful he will have to catch a separate flight to New Zealand because the rest of the team began their 26-hour journey yesterday afternoon. If Gallagher does not catch a plane today he will apparently be ruled out.

"The Commonwealth Games council has said it will accept Anthony in the team if he arrives by Friday," the executive administrator of the Scottish Badminton Union, Anne Smilie, said. "And as far as I am aware, after that he is ineligible. Anthony accepts that he has made a mistake but he is going to travel to Croydon anyway in the hope

that the passport office can issue him with something acceptable at the last moment."

While red tape has been cut through quickly in the past for so-called special cases — notably Zola Budd — Gallagher presents an unusual problem. The Nationality Enquiry Bureau will want to satisfy itself, for instance, why he did not obtain a British passport when he had so long in which to do so. If he cannot convince officials, and quickly, Gallagher's challenge in the singles, men's doubles and the team event will not even get off the ground.

Security being tightened for Gating's team

From Richard Streeton, Johannesburg

Mounting opposition from anti-apartheid groups has caused the itinerary for the tour to South Africa by Mike Gating's team of English cricketers to be re-arranged completely. The first three matches have deliberately been shifted away from areas in the Republic where the Mass Democratic Movement (MDM) and other protesting factions are strongest.

A further indication of the power and efficient organization of the protestors — whose activities are unprecedented in South African sport — is that within the past 24 hours they have obtained copies of the tour programme. The list of venues and fixtures was kept top secret but somehow or another it still leaked.

The South African Cricket Union (SACU) who had hoped to keep the details hidden until later today, as Gating's players leave London, reluctantly decided yesterday evening to make their plans known.

In addition to the opening matches being switched, the revised itinerary — only finalized about a week ago — reveals that the two five-day international games have been moved. The first now begins in Johannesburg on February 8 and the second starts in Cape Town on February 16. Originally, Newlands, at Cape Town, was to have staged the first and the Wanderers in Johannesburg the second.

It can safely be surmised that SACU were advised to keep the tour and its accompanying demonstrations away from the Cape at a time when the South African Government moves to Cape Town for the opening of its new season during the first week in February. President De Klerk is widely expected to announce further relaxations of several laws and this, at one time, might also have co-

incided with the release of Nelson Mandela.

This, however, is not expected to happen now until late February or early March, according to experienced political observers here.

It is indicative of the cloak and dagger atmosphere that has been present in the pre-tour arrangements that SACU have already lined up alternative hotels for the parties of English supporters.

The original tour programme had the English cricketers starting successfully in East London, Stellenbosch and Port Elizabeth, all centres where domestic political troubles can be felt.

Gating's players now open their tour in Kimberley, the isolated diamond mining town set in the semi-desert Karoo area of the Northern Cape which is relatively undisturbed by civil upheaval, compared with the rest of the country. The only unsatisfactory factor is that the temperature will probably be well over 100° F while the team is there.

They then move on to Bloemfontein, virtually the heartland of Afrikanerdom where, for obvious reasons, the team should again be spared the worst attentions of the demonstrators. After that they move to Pietermaritzburg which, though the scene of regular Zulu disturbances, should not interfere too much with visiting cricketers.

Unless the protestors run out of steam, or the tour by then is already ended prematurely, the worst demonstrations could occur during the hectic one-day programme which completes the schedule. Port Elizabeth, Durban and Cape Town all potential trouble spots for different reasons, stage the first three limited-over matches.

Imran maintains dignified stance

From John Woodcock, Adelaide

With one captain, Allan Border, saying he will wrap his seven-iron round the next person to ask him about umpires, and the other, Imran Khan, maintaining a dignified silence on the same subject, the second Test match between Australia and Pakistan starts here tomorrow.

Border has also taken a swipe at Test cricketers turned television commentators for not giving his side the credit he considers is due to them. Carping criticism, he said, takes the joy out of winning.

Those behind the microphone at Channel Nine (formerly Kerry Packer's, now Alan Bond's) with countless Australian caps to their names are Richie Benaud, Ian Chappell, Rodney Marsh and Bill Lawry, not to mention the ubiquitous Tony Greig, and if ever I happen to hear any of them they always seem to be saying how magnificent everything is. The essentially superficial World Series Cup was described as "a truly great competition".

Imran and the Pakistan team manager, Intikhab Alam, are confining their views on the Australian interpretation of the law, as practised at Melbourne on Tuesday, to their official reports. Very sensible, too. Even so, the old lady in the dry cleaners' yesterday morning was certainly a little uneasy about the way Australia had come to win the first Test match with a string of leg-before decisions going their way.

In not entirely dissimilar circumstances in Pakistan in 1988 — the first match of a

series, a pitch more to the liking of the home side and umpiring not to the liking of the visitors — the Australians were all for packing their bags and going home. Instead of that here now, two excellent batsmen, Salim Malik (seven Test hundreds) and Rameez Raja (two Test hundreds) have flown in as reinforcements from Pakistan.

Mansoor Akhtar is to be put on the shuttle back to Karachi today, ostensibly with a badly bruised hand. Like Salim and Rameez, Abdul Qadir's replacement, Mushtaq Ahmed, is also expected to play tomorrow.

Mushtaq is to be remembered from England's own last tour of Pakistan when, at the age of 17, he took six for 81 against Mike Gating's side (captained on that occasion by Emburey) at Sahrwal. His leg-break and googly bowling was the one stimulating thing about the match. England succeeded only in their determination not to enjoy themselves.

If the arrival of Salim Malik and Rameez makes another Adelaide draw that much more likely, it is just as well that one of the three Test matches should be played on a really good batting pitch. Melbourne's was not that and Sydney's is not expected to be, and it is time the Australian attack was properly tested on a pitch which rewards nothing less than thoroughly good bowling.

For fear that I am beginning to sound like a retired Australian Test player, now in the commentary box, it is only fair to say that Border's side has had a splendid 12 months. It is still, in fact, 12 days short of a year since they emerged from the shadows and beat West Indies in Sydney. Of their 11 Test matches since then, they have won another six and lost none, and, as Border rightly and proudly claimed on Tuesday, they have been the front-runners in all 12.

Oddly enough, no one would welcome a good pitch for this Adelaide match more than two batsmen who have done so much to revive Australia's fortunes, Jones and Waugh. Although in Tests against England they both average 66, against Pakistan they have been correspondingly unsuccessful.

In eight innings against Pakistan, Jones averages 7.7: Waugh's average in seven innings against them is 16.4. It seems, by the way, as though Waugh's days as a bowler may be numbered. He has a stress fracture in the back, and even the three overs he had in Melbourne left him very sore.

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T24/18-1G

Welsh make little of an injury to Allen

By Owen Jenkins

The Welsh rugby union team held its final training session before Saturday's international against France with a 90-minute workout at Sophia Gardens, Cardiff, which concentrated on moves and tactical options.

There was a slight scare when the second row and new cap, Andrew Allen, had to leave to receive stitches to a cut finger but he resumed and will take the field on Saturday. The Neath second row, Gareth Llewellyn, has been drafted in, however, as a precaution. John Ryan, chairman of selectors and coach, said: "The surgeon has assured us he'll be OK and we are sure that he will be able to play."

The forwards experimented with a blindside flanker, Phil

Slater to lead fight

Nicky Slater, the British ice-dance champion, is to lead the campaign, mounted by the Richmond Ice Rink Preservation Association, to have a new ice rink built in Richmond.

Slater said the campaign to safeguard the future of skating in Richmond had received overwhelming public support following a scheme to build houses in the site. "Everyone is determined not to lose an ice facility in Richmond," he added.

The Ebbw Vale rugby union captain, Malcolm Sibthorpe, has been suspended for 12 weeks for butting in the match against Coventry on December 23. The prop was making his first appearance after a one-month ban.

SPORT IN BRIEF



Slater: no to housing plans

Ayr Raiders' signing of the Canadian ice hockey player, Keith Gretzky, initially a temporary arrangement, became permanent yesterday when the club announced that his registration would be retained until the end of the season. Danny Shea, the player for whom Gretzky was covering, will now be allowed to leave the club.

Title tilt

Steve McCarthy, aged 27, is to challenge Tom Collins for his British light-heavyweight boxing title at Stoke on March 6.

Staying on

Glamorgan County Cricket Club completed the signing of the former Surrey seamer, Mark Frost, yesterday.

Action man

Harry Roberts, the former secretary of the Deeside Dragons team which has been expelled from the Heineken British ice hockey league, may take legal action against the British Ice Hockey Association. Roberts has instructed his solicitor to investigate the manner in which he was suspended from the game following Deeside's failure to fulfil a league fixture at Humberdale last Sunday.